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How to Make Slip Covers

Instructions for

- **Measurements**
- **Chairs**
- **Sofas**
- **Couches**
- **Protective Covers**

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Book No. 113

How to Make
Slip Covers

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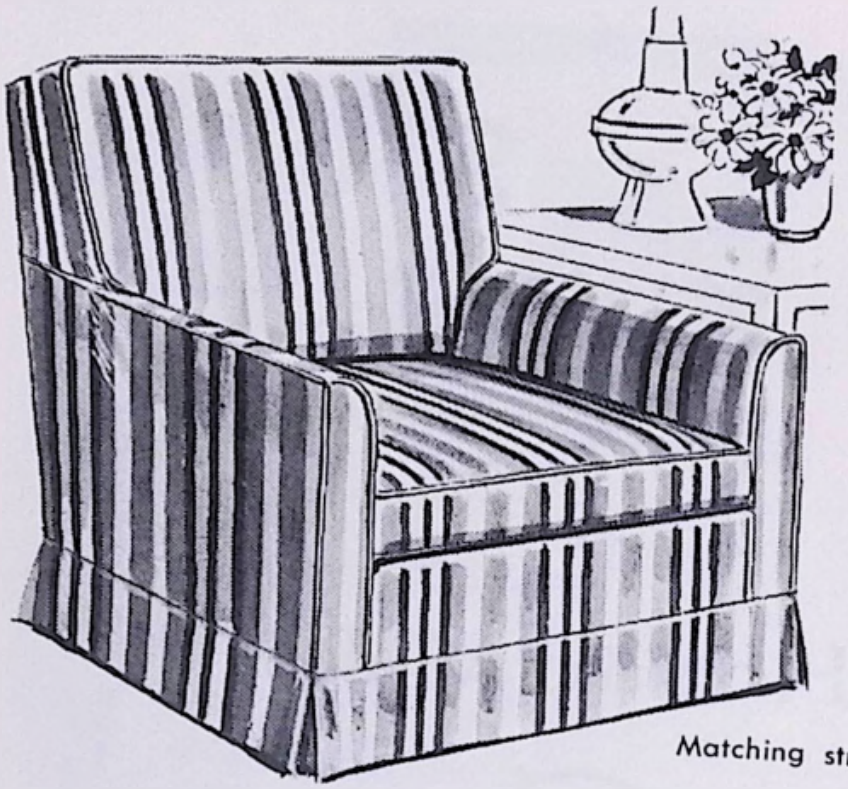
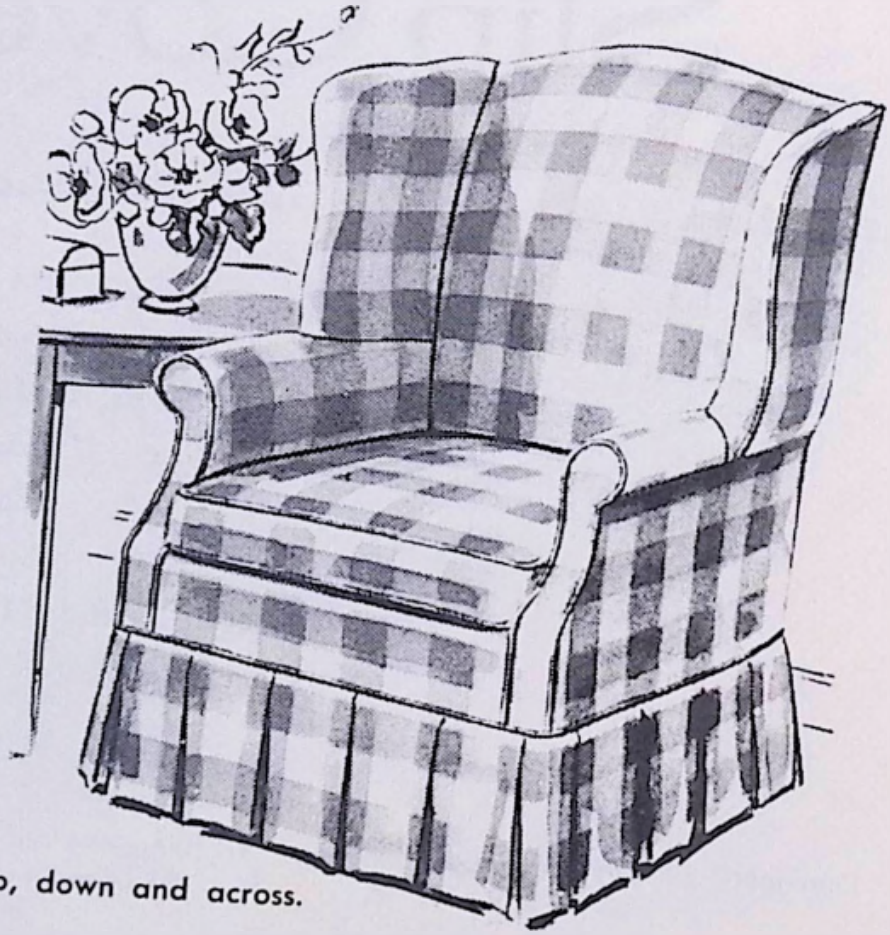


Matching stripes.



Plaids matching up, down and across.

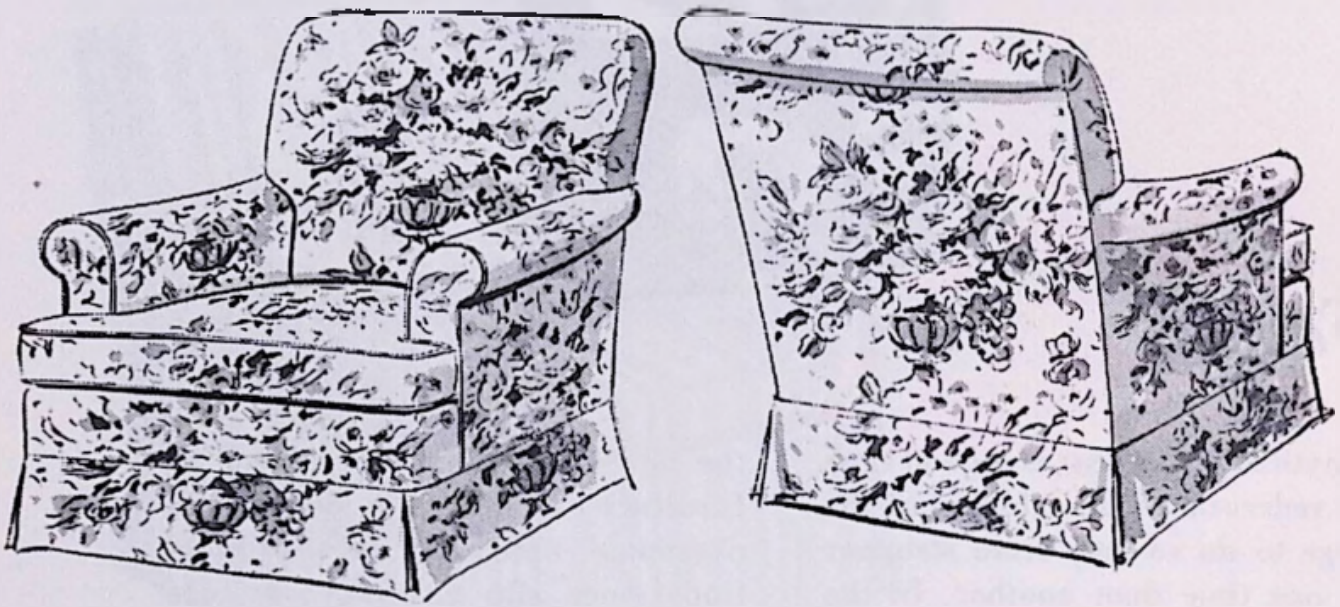
Fabrics

Anytime of the year is a good time to redecorate with fabric, but the urge to do so may seem stronger at one time than another. In the late Spring when thoughts are turned to the warm days ahead, a change might seem to be in order for the interior of a home. This is the time of year to bring more of the outdoors in and establish the cool look inside. There is no better way to create that look than to change the appearance of upholstered chairs and sofas by the use of slip covers. The covers may be made of linen, ticking, chintz, or one of the many novelty cottons in keeping with the season. In the Fall of the year, warmth and coziness can be brought into a room by the use of heavier fabrics in warm, rich colors.

The frame of a chair or sofa may be as good as new but its fabric may be worn or faded or the color and texture may not blend with the new chairs or other pieces of furniture. A new slip cover will overcome many of these objections since slip covers today are not ill-shaped covering used for the protection of upholstery, but are form fitting and an important part of the decorative scheme.

Fabrics for slip covers should be chosen with the same care as drapery fabrics or any accessory in the room. The type of fabric should be in keeping with the décor of a room and suitable for the purpose it is to serve.

The selection of fabrics for slip covers is almost unlimited. There are lovely hand blocked or printed Belgian or Irish linens, glazed chintz in patterns and plain colors, mohair in patterned and chevron weaves, sailcloth, ticking and many dust-proof novelty cottons. Be sure the fabric of your choice is pre-shrunk and sun-fast. The fab-

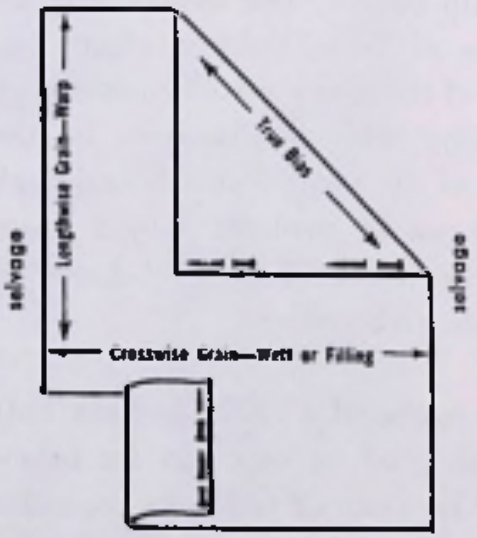


ric should not be of loose weave as this type is more likely to stretch than a closely woven fabric. Then, too, dust slips through loosely woven fabrics.

Cutting Fabric

For a slip cover that fits, wears and cleans well and holds its shape, the fabric should be cut on the true grain. The lengthwise grain should run upward on the back and the arms and from front to back on the cushion. The crosswise grain should run across each section of the chair from side to side and front to back on the outside arms.

Plain fabrics will cut to the best advantage. Next, is the all-over design without an up or down to the pattern or weave. When using fabrics with a large motif take care to place motif to the best advantage on the back (front and back), cushion or seat and on the arms and sides. Lay fabric on the chair, as illustrated, to determine how best the design should be placed.



Grain lines of fabric.

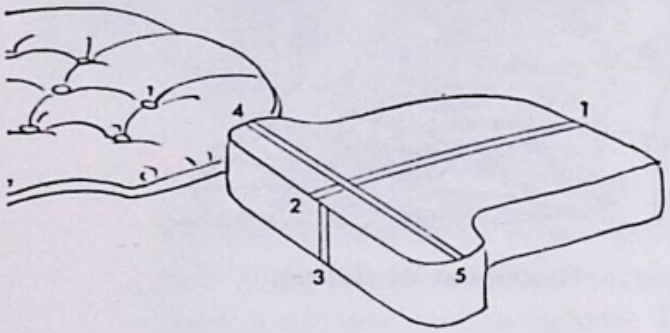
Striped and plaid fabrics require matching. Stripes should match at all joinings. Plaids are a two-way design and should match at lengthwise and crosswise joinings. If a pattern is used, locate a stripe on the exact center of each section, back, front and cushion by placing the center of muslin pattern on that stripe. Locate stripe at a given point on the arm and side pieces and match the opposite side. If a pattern is not used, center a stripe and block each section accordingly.

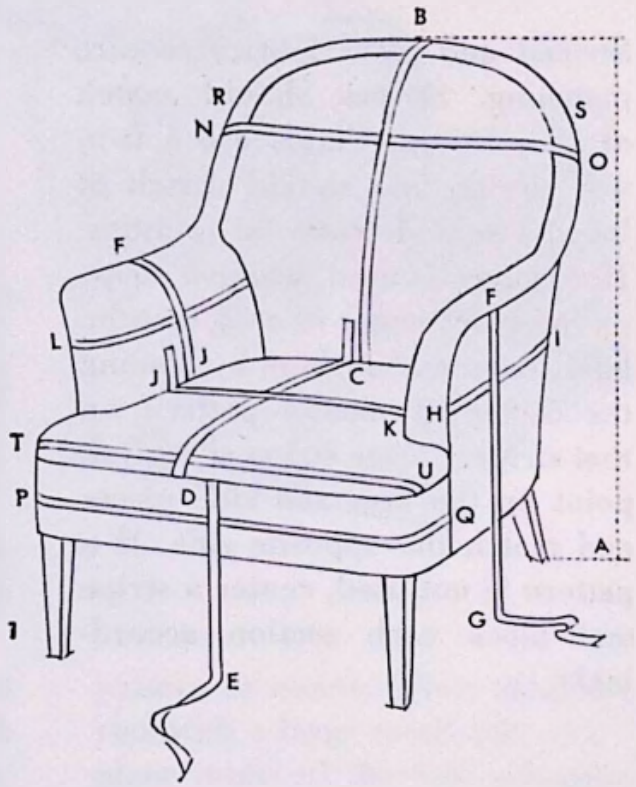
Placement of design.

ESTIMATE OF YARDAGE

		Plain, or Small All Over Print		Repeat Design—Floral, Plaid	
	CUSHIONS	36 INCH	48–50 INCH	36 INCH	48–50 INCH
Sofa	3	20 yards	14 yards	22 yards	15½ yards
Love Seat	2	12 yards	8½ yards	15 yards	10 yards
Love Seat	1	14½ yards	10½ yards	16 yards	12 yards
Chaise Longue	1	11 yards	8½ yards	12½ yards	9½ yards
Wing Chair	1	9½ yards	7 yards	11 yards	8 yards
Arm Chair	1	8½ yards	6 yards	10 yards	7 yards
Slipper Chair		3 yards	2½ yards	4 yards	3¼ yards
Pillow Back Chair	2	9¼ yards	8 yards	11 yards	8½ yards
Budoir Chair	1	7½ yards	8½ yards	5 yards	5¾ yards
Studio Couch	3	14 yards	9 yards	16 yards	10 yards

Measurements Chart





FOR YARDAGE

BACK LENGTH—(*floor to top*)—A to B plus 1" seam allowance.....inches.....inches

BACK WIDTH—R to S plus 2" seam allowance.....inches

FRONT BACK LENGTH—B to C plus 2" seam allowance, plus 3" tuck-in.....inches.....inches

FRONT BACK WIDTH—N to O plus 2" seam.....inches.....inches

SEAT LENGTH—C to D plus 2" seam, plus 3" tuck-in.....inches.....inches

SEAT WIDTH—across—J to K plus 2" seam allowance, plus 6" tuck-in.....inches

SEAT WIDTH—across—T to U plus 2" seam.....inches

FRONT LENGTH—D to floor at E plus 1" seam.....inches.....inches

FRONT—across P to Q plus 2" seam allowance.....inches

SIDE LENGTH—(*arm to floor*)—F to G plus 1" seam allowance.....inches x 2 = ...inches

SIDE—(*front to back*)—H to I plus 2" seam allowance.....inches

ARM LENGTH—(*inside*)—F to J plus 2" seam allowance, plus 3" tuck-in.....inches x 2 = ...inches

ARM—(*inside*) front to back—L to M plus 2" seam allowance plus 3" tuck-in.....inches

CUSHION —Length—1 to 2 plus 2" seam allowance.....inches x 2 = ...inches

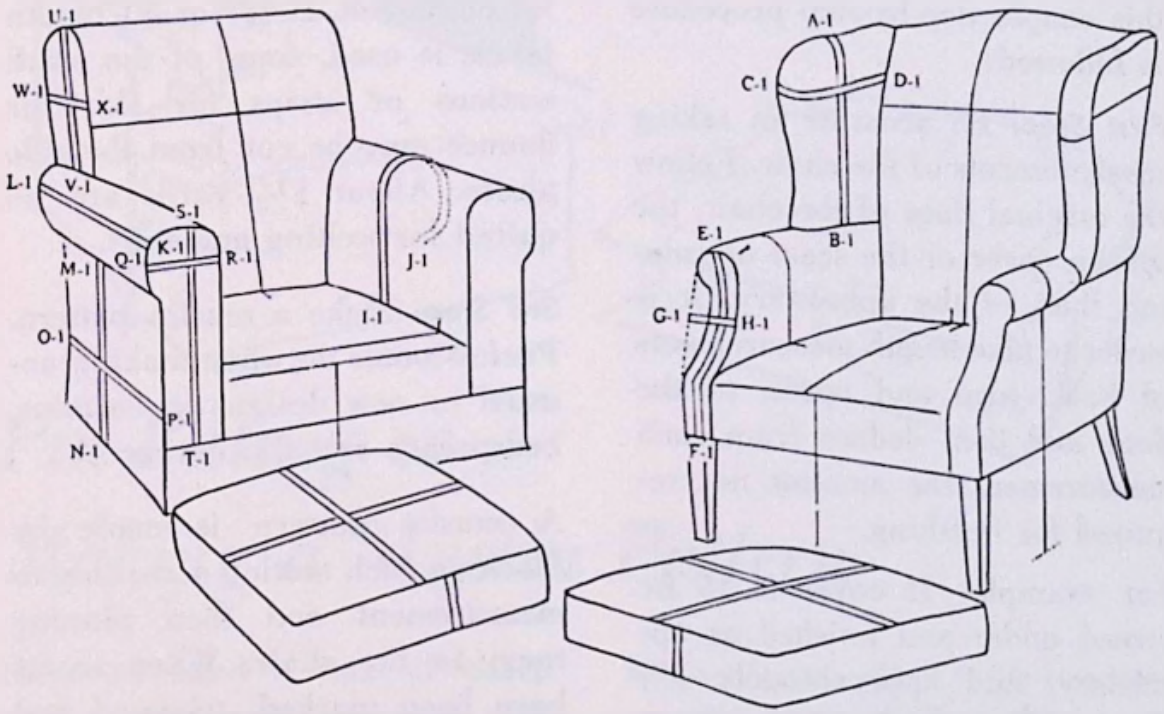
Width—4 to 5 plus 2" seam allowance.....inches

Depth of box—2 to 3 plus 2" seam.....inches.....inches

ADDITIONAL MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED FOR WING CHAIR

FOR YARDAGE

WING LENGTH—A1 to B1 plus 2" seam.....inches x 2 = ...inches
WING WIDTH—C1 to D1 plus 2" seam
allowance, plus 3" tuck-in.....inches
FRONT ARM—E1 to F1 plus 2" seam.....inches x 2 = ...inches
FRONT ARM WIDTH—G1 to H1 plus 2" seam.....inches



FOR CHAIR WITH WIDE ROUNDED ARM AND FRONT SECTION

Instead of Arm Measurements on page 6, take:

FOR YARDAGE

ARM LENGTH—(*inside*)—I1 to J1 plus 2"
seam allowance, plus 3" tuck-in.....inches x 2 = ...inches
ARM OUTSIDE—(*front to back*)—K1 to L1
plus 2" seam allowance.....inches
SIDE LENGTH—M1 to N1 plus 1" seam.....inches x 2 = ...inches
SIDE WIDTH—O1 to P1 plus 2" seam.....inches
FRONT ARM—S1 to T1 plus 2" seam.....inches x 2 = ...inches
FRONT ARM WIDTH—Q1 to R1 plus 2"
seam allowance.....inches
BACK SIDE—U1 to V1 plus 2" seam.....inches
BACK SIDE WIDTH—W1 to X1 plus 2" seam.....inches

Add an extra yard if the fabric has a design that must be centered. To estimate yardage, add up LENGTHWISE measurements of pieces and divide by 36".

Steps in Making Slip Covers

Slip covers are easy to make if this simple step-by-step procedure is followed:

First Step: Be accurate in taking measurements of the chair. Follow the original lines of the chair, the muslin cover or the seam or joining lines of the upholstery. It is easier to take length measurements of back, arm and apron to the floor and then deduct from each measurement the amount not required for finishing.

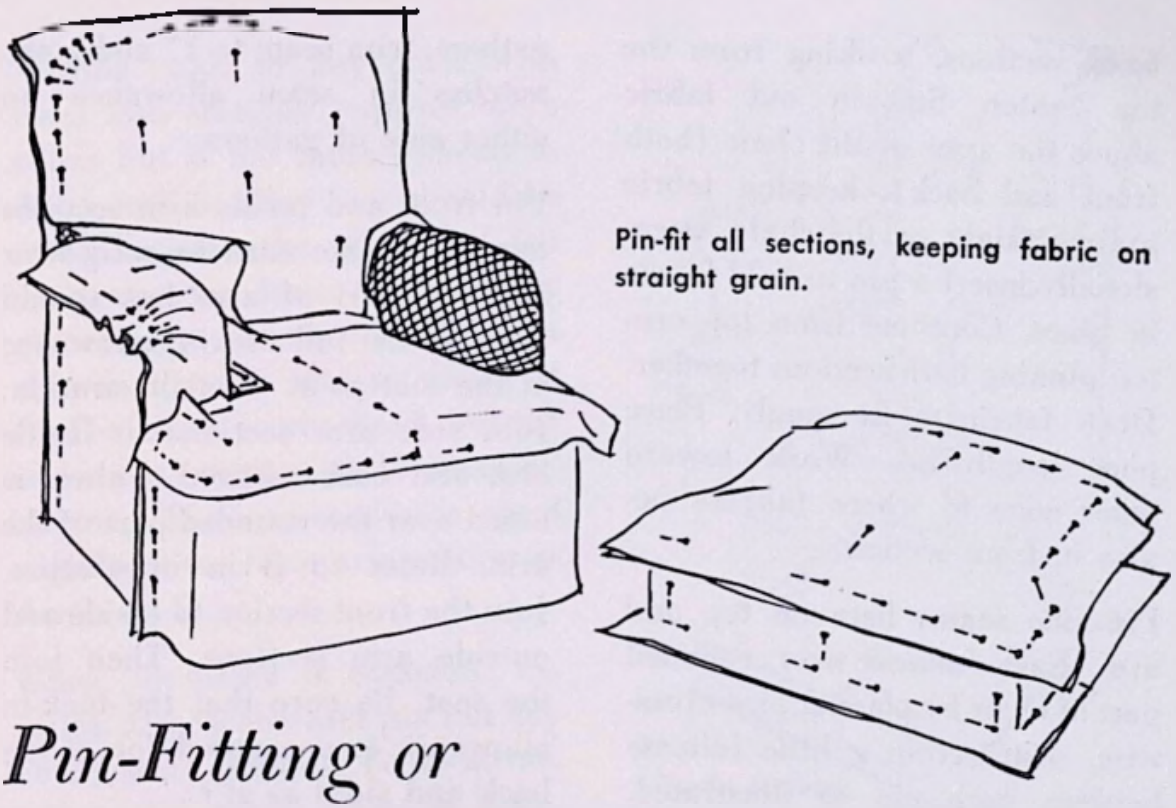
For example: If cover is to be turned under and finished as upholstery, add approximately 4". If cover is to be finished with a skirt, ruffle or flounce, then deduct about 6" from length measurements of front, sides and back. Keep the distance from the floor the same all around.

2nd Step: Estimate yardage required. Add together the length measurements of all sections. Divide by 36 for the number of yards required. The width of fabric and bottom finish must be considered when determining yardage. When buying fabric with a large floral design, 18" to 27" in size, allow an extra 1 or 1½ yards for placement. If 48" or 50" width fabric is used, some of the small sections or strips for skirt or flounce may be cut from the side pieces. About 1½ yards are required for welting and skirt.

3rd Step: Make a muslin pattern. Professionals do when making unusual or new designs in curtains, bedspreads and slip covers.

A muslin pattern is made by blocking each section according to measurement and then pinning them to the chair. When seams have been marked, trimmed and notched this pattern is used to guide the cutting of the slip cover fabric. When a muslin pattern is not used the slip cover fabric is blocked, then pinned directly to the chair.

After pin-fitting, measure seams to determine the yardage of welting or trimming needed. Make welting. Assemble slip cover sections then apply flounce and zipper or other closing. Cover cushions. Press cover and place on chair.



Pin-fit all sections, keeping fabric on straight grain.

Pin-Fitting or Making a Muslin Pattern

Have on hand a box of sharp pins, colored pencil, scissors, tape measure, hand sewing needles, heavy-duty thread, ruler and your sewing machine. Place the chair to be covered on a low table or a card table.

First, block your fabric to correspond to the measurements for each section of the chair. If the back measures 39″ high and 26″ across, including a generous 1″ seam allowance, cut a piece of muslin 39″ long and 26″ wide. Be sure the 39″ is on the true lengthwise grain of the fabric. As each section is cut, pin it to its location on the chair. Follow this same procedure for all types of chairs.

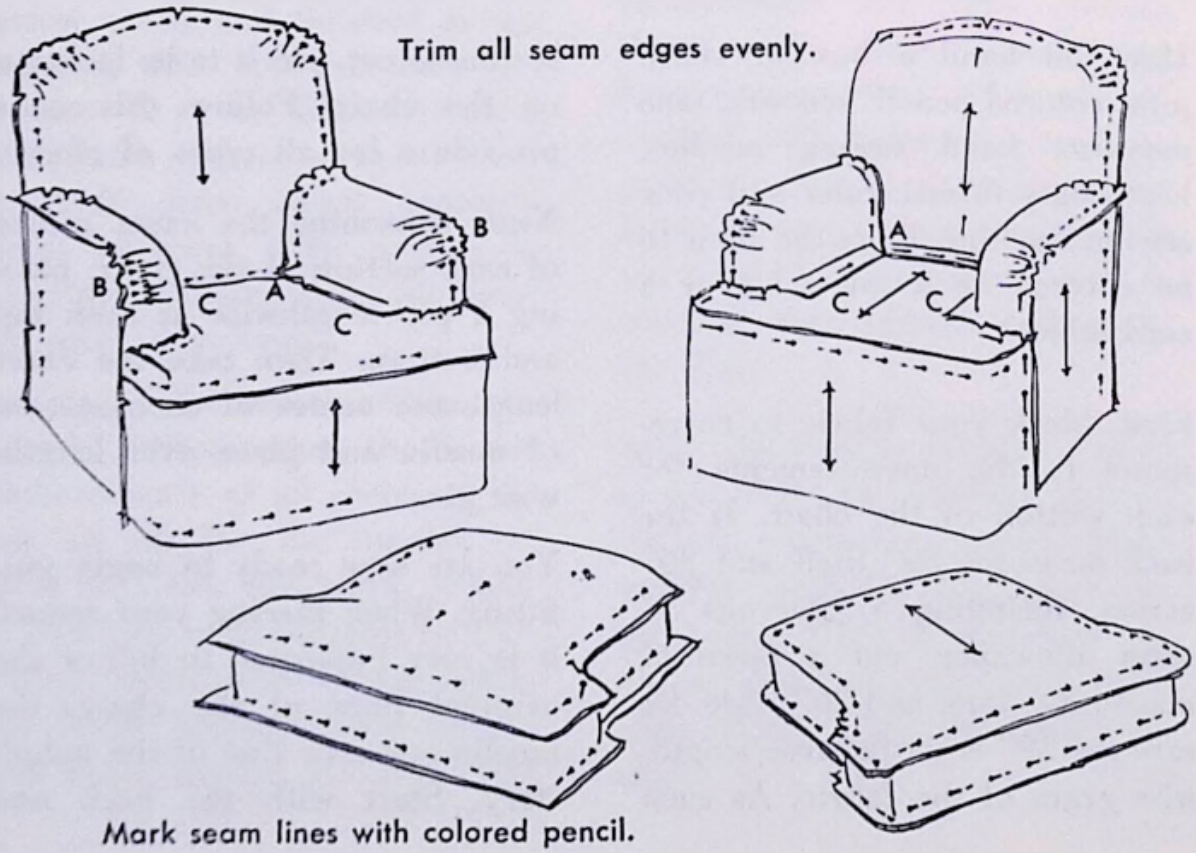
Next, determine the exact center of each section of the chair, placing a pin lengthwise at both top and bottom. Then take the exact lengthwise center of each section of muslin and place over lengthwise pins.

You are now ready to begin pin-fitting. When placing your seams, it is very important to follow the original lines of the chair, the muslin cover or line of the upholstery. Start with the back and

front sections, working from the top center. Smooth out fabric above the arms of the chair (both front and back), keeping fabric grain straight on the chair. Occasionally insert a pin to hold fabric in place. Continue from top center, pinning both sections together. Draw fabric to fit snugly. Place pins lengthwise. Work toward outer edge to where fullness begins in front section.

Pin side seams between top and arm. Ease fullness over rounded part of chair by placing pins crosswise, distributing a little fullness between each pin as illustrated. Pin both sections together across gathers, trim seam to 1" and make notches in seam allowance on either side of gathers.

Pin front and inside arm sections together. Seam must be snug over rounded part of arm but should taper to the full tuck-in allowance at the seat as at A in illustration. Join side arm sections to inside arm and back sections. Fabric is eased over the rounded part of the arm. Refer to B in illustration. Join the front section to inside and outside arm sections. Then join the seat. Be sure that the tuck-in allowance is accounted for at the back and sides as at C.

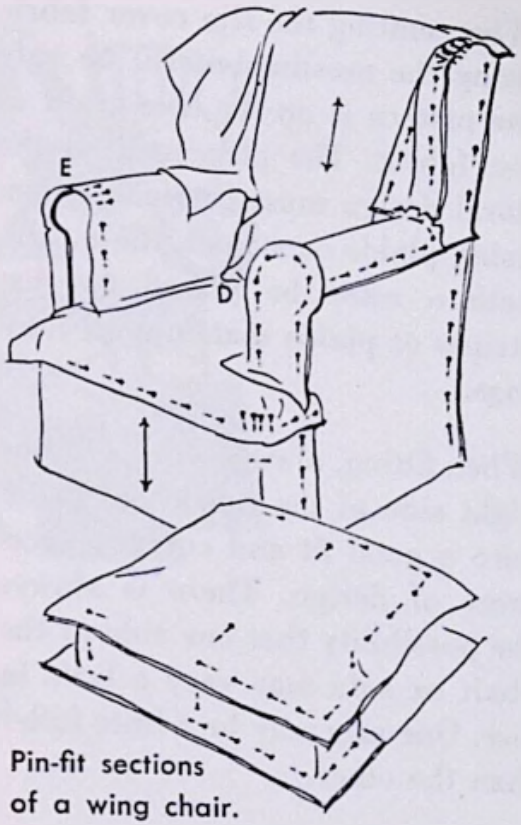


A wing chair or any chair with front arm sections requires more seams but is not more difficult to do. A tuck-in allowance should be made between the wing and the back, tapering from regular seam allowance at the top to a 3″ seam allowance at the seat as shown at D. The chair is pin-fitted and the edges are trimmed to 1″ seam allowance. The arm section is eased slightly to the front arm section as shown at E.

When pin-fitting is complete, examine it critically and pin out any unnecessary fullness. To be attractive a slip cover must be form-fitting. The better the pin-fitting job, the more successful the slip cover.

With a colored pencil (blue preferred), draw a line over the lengthwise pins on both sides of the seams. Using sharp scissors, trim all seams evenly to 1″. Notch seams at center points and where fullness in one section is to be controlled when joining to corresponding sections, as shown in illustrations.

Block pieces for cushion the same as for chair sections. Make one continuous strip for boxing and pin-fit to pillow. Mark seam line and trim to ½″ seam allowance. Round all square corners. Begin



Pin-fit sections of a wing chair.

curve about 1¼″ from point, and curve to ¾″ from point.

This same step-by-step procedure should be followed for all types of chairs and sofas. Some require more sections, but the method of assembling them is the same. However, always begin at the top with the front and back sections, and work from center to sides and downward.

After you have made one slip cover, you may decide that making muslin patterns for other chairs is not necessary. If you have found them easy to make and feel confident, go right ahead and block fabric for the next one.

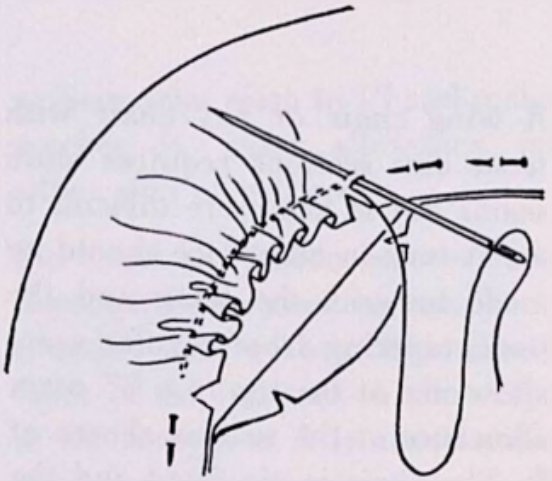
When cutting the slip cover fabric using the muslin pattern, be sure the pattern is on the true grain of the fabric. The placement of the floral design must be right. When using plaids or stripes, the muslin pattern must be placed so that stripes or plaids match at all joinings.

When fitting, always work with the right side of the fabric out to insure a good fit and correct placement of design. There is always the possibility that one side of the chair or sofa may vary a little in size. One arm may be a little fuller than the other.

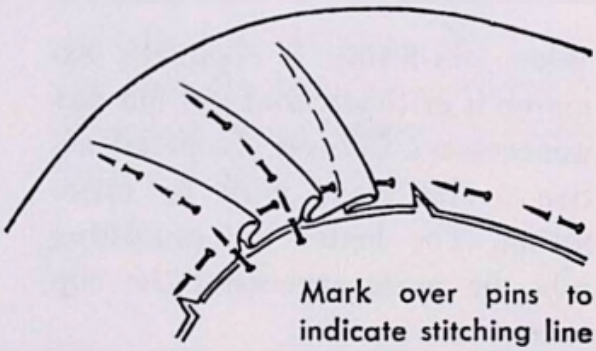
Fitting with the right side out enables you to see what the results will be. Mark all seam lines with colored pencil, and when joining sections, "marked line" is placed over "marked line".

Remove pins controlling ease between notches, and with needle and strong thread, run a row of stitching between notches, gathering fabric to match joining section. Fasten thread securely.

Darts may be used instead of gathers to control the fullness, if desired, but should be made as inconspicuous as possible. Pin the darts to conform to the curve or corner of the chair. Mark over



Remove pins and gather, taking short stitches between notches to control ease.



Mark over pins to indicate stitching line of darts.

pins with blue pencil to indicate stitching line as shown. Do not stretch fabric. Darts are likely to break a continuous line, such as in a striped or plaid fabric. It is best to avoid using them where fullness can be eased in.

When all sections are fitted to your satisfaction and markings have been made, then measure all seams to be finished with welting or fringe to determine amount of yardage required before removing sections from the chair.

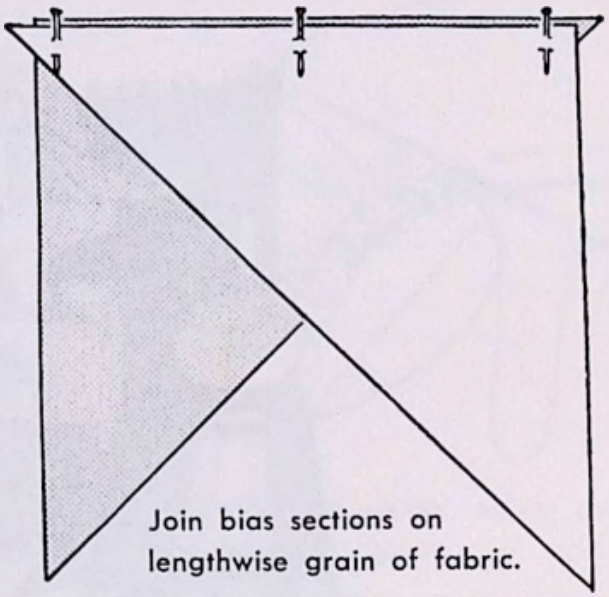
Seams and Finishes

Welt or Corded Seam. This seam is most generally used for slip covers. Fabric for covering cord must be cut on the true bias. When several yards of bias are needed, first cut a square of fabric 18″ x 18″ or 36″ x 36″. Fold the fabric on the true bias by bringing lengthwise edge to crosswise edge. Press and cut along the fold. Stitch lengthwise edges together, taking ¼″ seam and press seam open. Then bring crosswise edges together, extending bias edge the width of strips required. Stitch and press. One yard of fabric 36″ wide will cut approximately 24 yards of 1½″ bias strips.

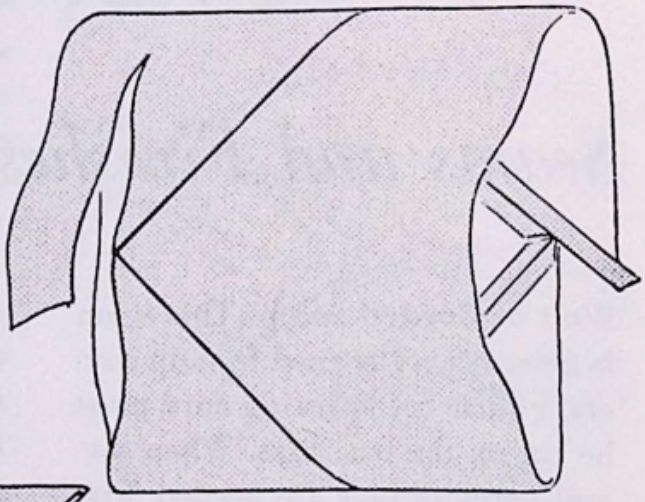
Another method of cutting bias is to bring the lengthwise thread evenly along the crosswise thread. The fold resulting is the true bias. Press the fold lightly. Mark the width for bias strips, measuring from the fold. The Bias Gauge is helpful in cutting bias without measuring. First, cut on the fold. Set gauge for width desired and place on point of scissors. Join bias strips on the lengthwise grain. Maintain evenness of strips by extending points beyond the edges the width of the seam—¼″.

Cut bias strips 1½″ or 1¾″ wide, depending on the size of cord used. The fabric may be either the same as the slip cover or a contrast. For

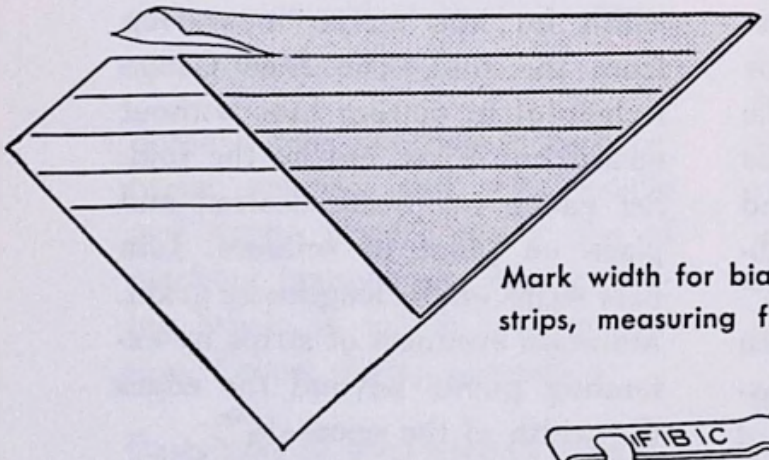
the average size chair with a cushion, 10 to 12 yards of welting are required. An arm chair or wing chair requires from 12 to 14 yards. A sofa with three cushions takes approximately 25 yards. To make cording, enclose cord in fold of bias strip. Stitch close to cord but do not crowd. Using the Adjustable Zipper Cording Foot stretch the bias strip slightly as you stitch. Pin covered cord or welting to the side of the seam requiring the most control, placing line of stitching over marking indicating seam allowance. Stitch, using the Adjustable Cording Zipper Foot. Then pin over opposite side of seam, right sides of fabric together. Stitch between first row of stitching and cord. See page 15.



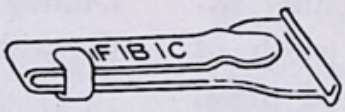
Join bias sections on lengthwise grain of fabric.



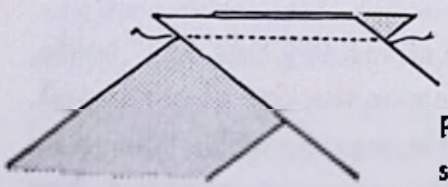
Join crosswise edges, extending bias edge for width desired.



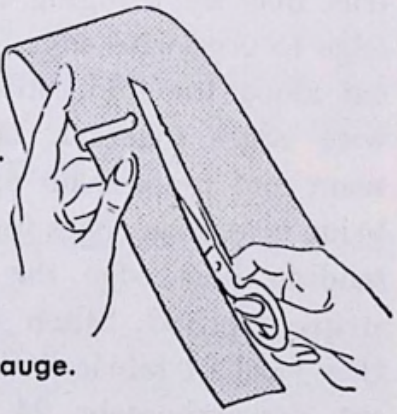
Mark width for bias strips, measuring from fold.

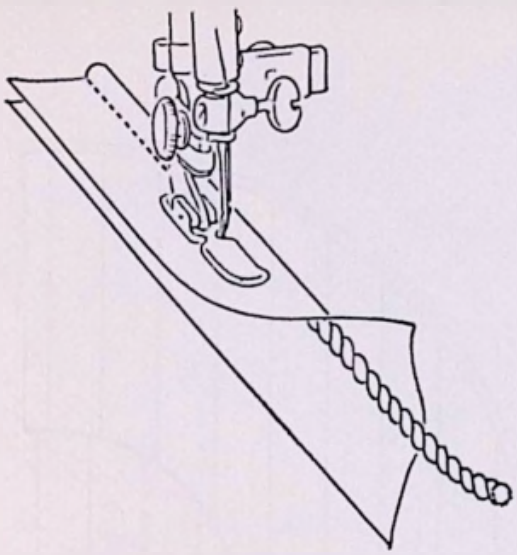


The Bias Cutting Gauge.

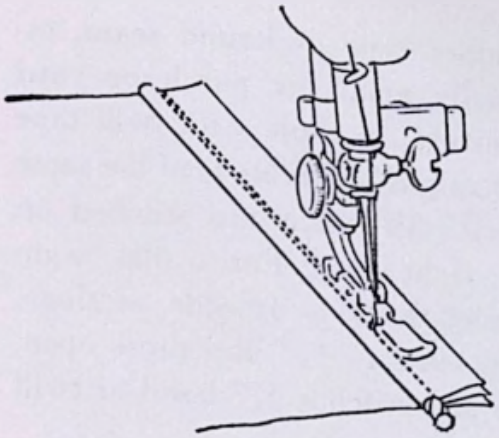


Position needle at point of crossing and stitch.





Enclose cord in bias strip and stitch close to cord, using Adjustable Cording Foot.



First stitch cording to one side of seam.

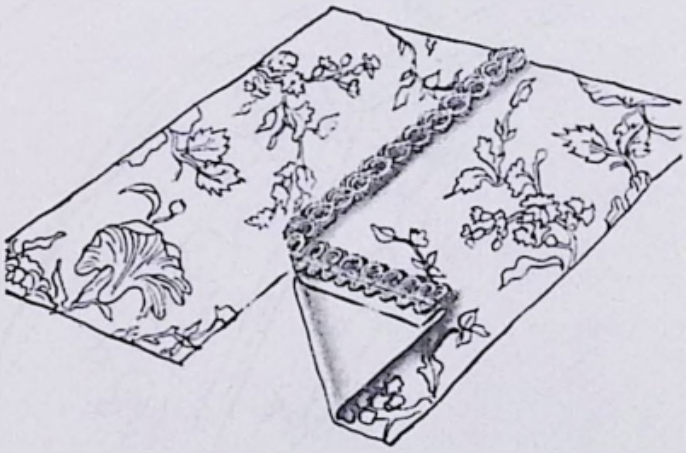
Fringe Seam

Pin heading of fringe directly over marking for seam. Apply fringe first to the side of the seam requiring the most control, such as gathered or shaped sections. Then join to opposite section.

Welt or corded seam.

Bound Seam

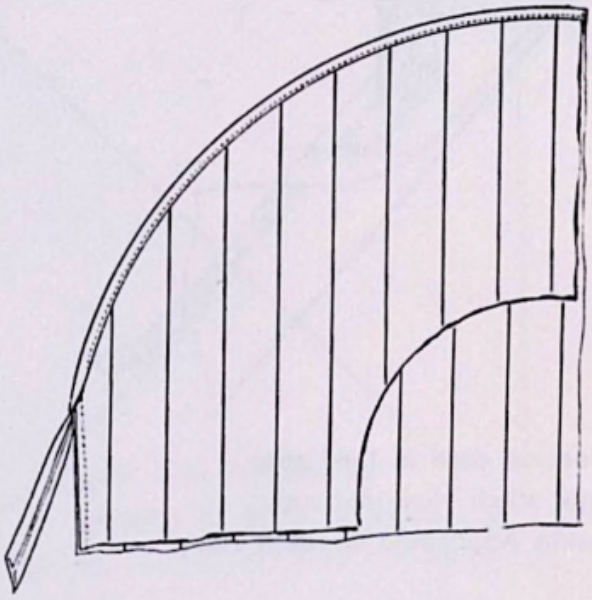
This seam is used only in lightweight fabrics or where there is little stress or strain. It is a simple, attractive finish for cushions, stool covers or a child's chair. Stitch seams, wrong sides of fabric together. Press seam as stitched and trim to a scant ¼" in width. Bind seam, using the Binder Attachment. For binding, cut $^{15}/_{16}$" bias strip of self or contrasting fabric, or use ½" folded bias binding which is available in a wide choice of colors.



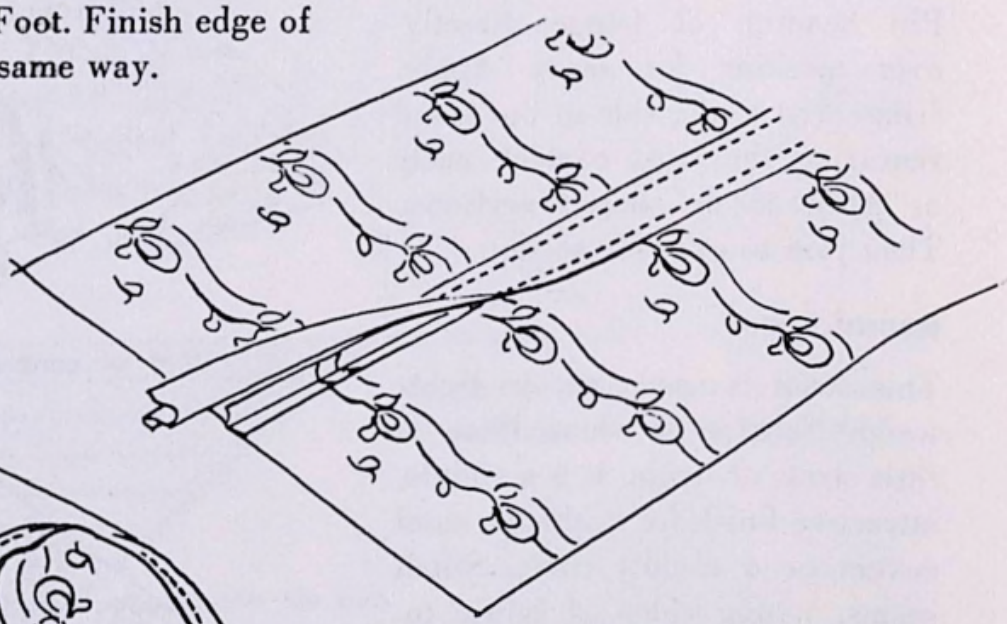
Fringe seam.

Another type of bound seam, especially good for porch or yard furniture, is made with twill tape or straight bands made of the same fabric. All seams are stitched on the right side. For a flat seam across the top or side sections, trim seam to ¼" and press open. Pin and stitch a ¾" band or twill tape over seam.

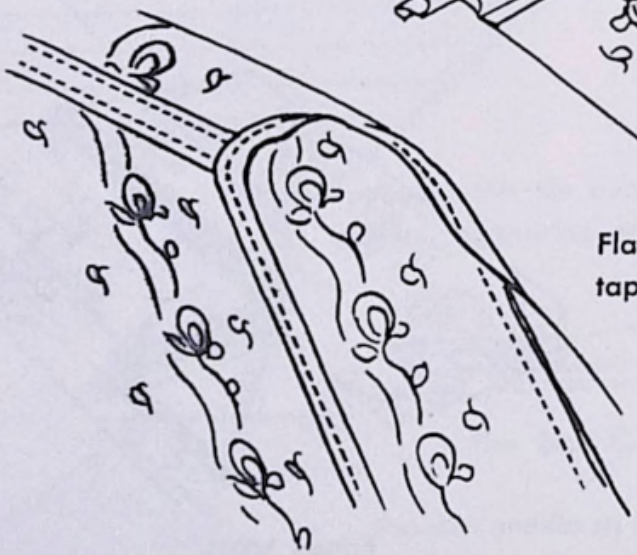
For shaped joinings stitch seam and trim to ¼". Stitch one edge of tape to seam. Then turn tape over seam edge even with line of stitching and stitch again, using the Machine Presser Foot. Finish edge of cutouts in the same way.



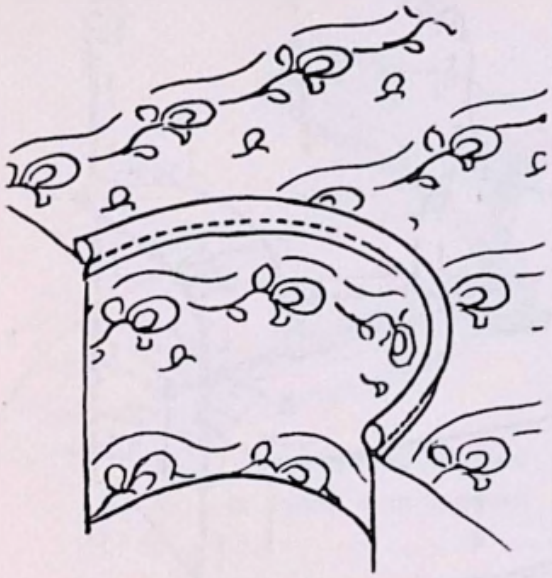
Bound seam, using Binder Attachment.



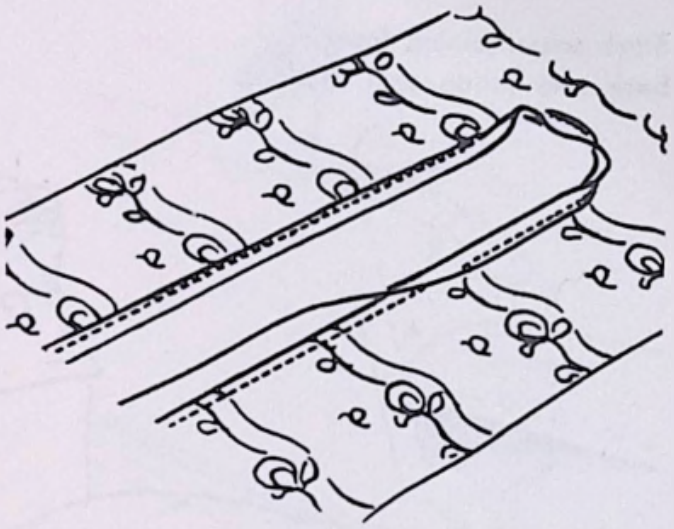
Flat seam covered with banding or tape.



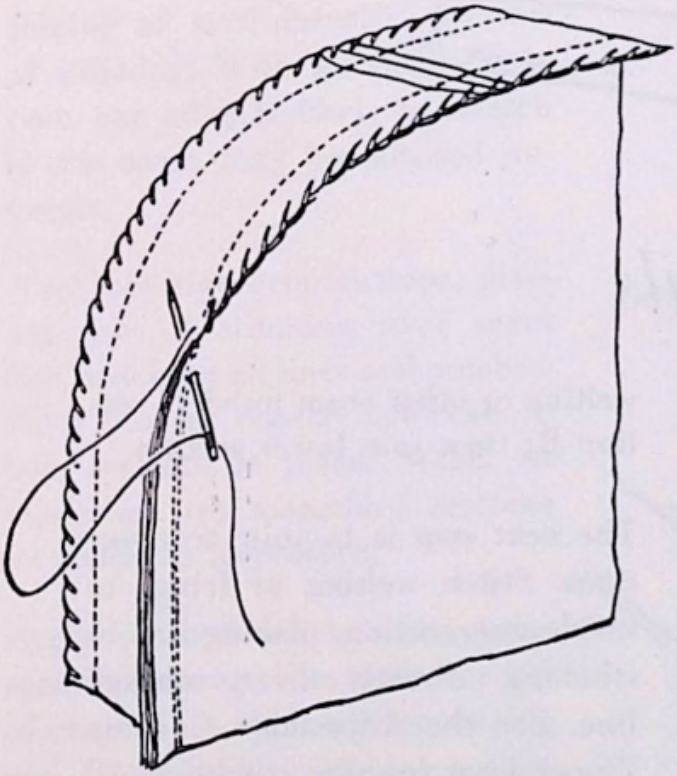
Bound seams (outside curve), using banding or tape.



Bound seams (inside curve).



Cutout edges bound with banding or tape.



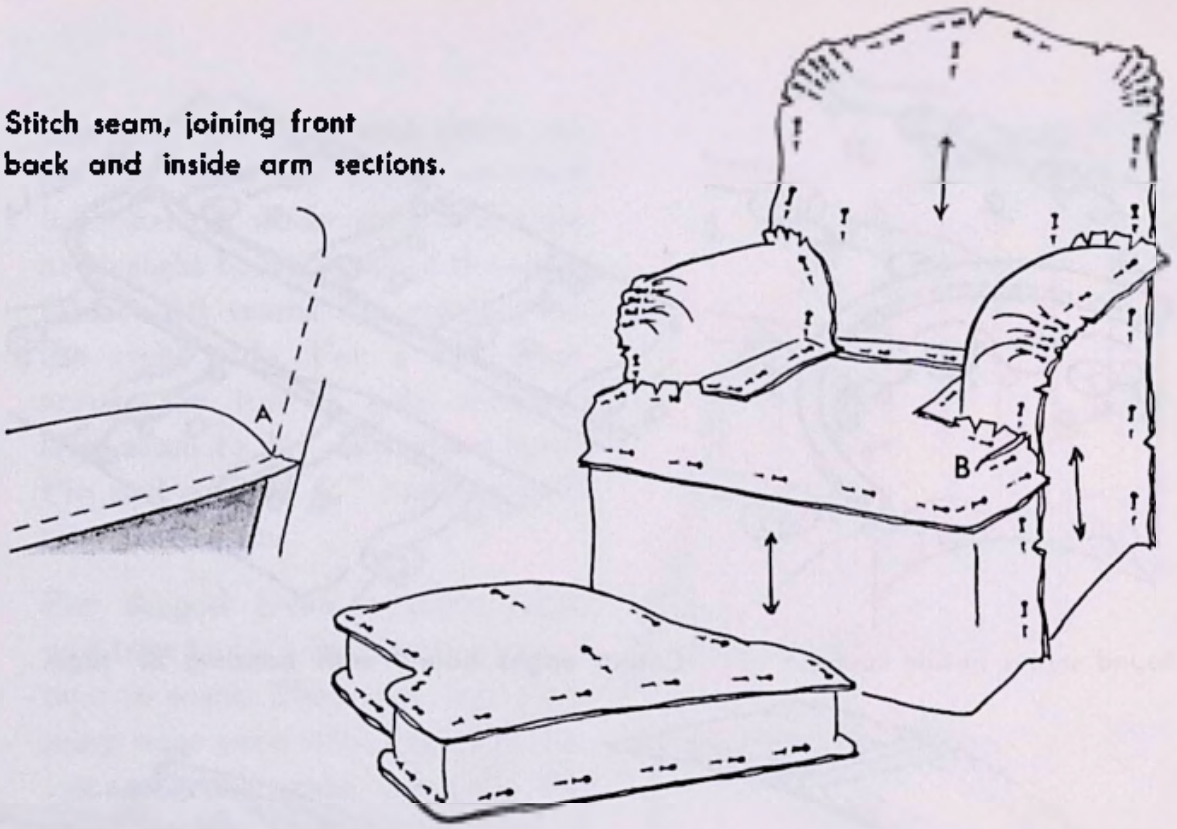
Seam trimmed to ½"; welting edges trimmed to ¼". Edges overcast to prevent fraying.

Corded seams.

Overcast Edges

Trim all inside seams to a scant ½". For a neat and longlasting finish, especially in fabrics which fray easily, overcast seam edges using heavy-duty thread. Take long even stitches.

Stitch seam, joining front back and inside arm sections.

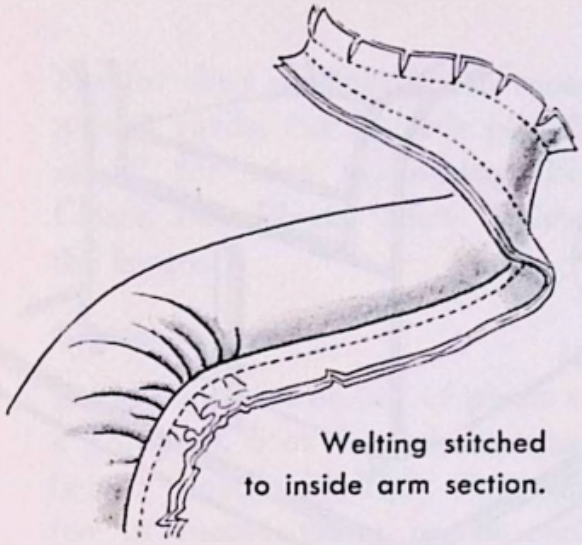


Construction Details

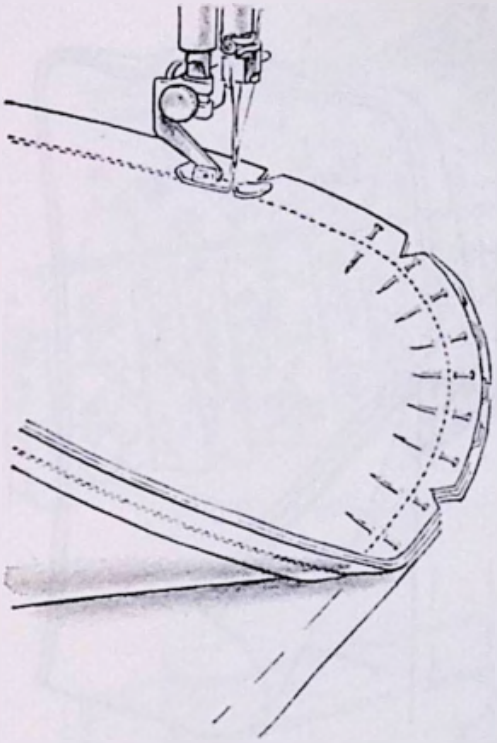
The first step in actually assembling the slip cover is to stitch the connecting seams. The connecting seam A joins the inside arm sections to front back section. These seams must fit snugly over the arm but should taper to the regular tuck-in allowance at seat.

If fitting darts are used as shown in section B, stitch darts and press. Then join apron-seat section to back and arm sections, making due allowance at the back and sides for tuck-in. Try cover on chair for further inspection. If apron is cut in two sections, apply welting or other seam finish to section B; then join lower section.

The next step is to join arm sections. Stitch welting or fringe to inside arm section, placing line of stitching directly over marked line. Use the Adjustable Cording Zipper Foot for this stitching. Always stitch welting or fringe to the side of seam requiring the most control. Never attempt to join shaped sections and insert welting, piping or fringe in one operation. Good seaming is much too important in making a slip cover to risk



Welting stitched to inside arm section.



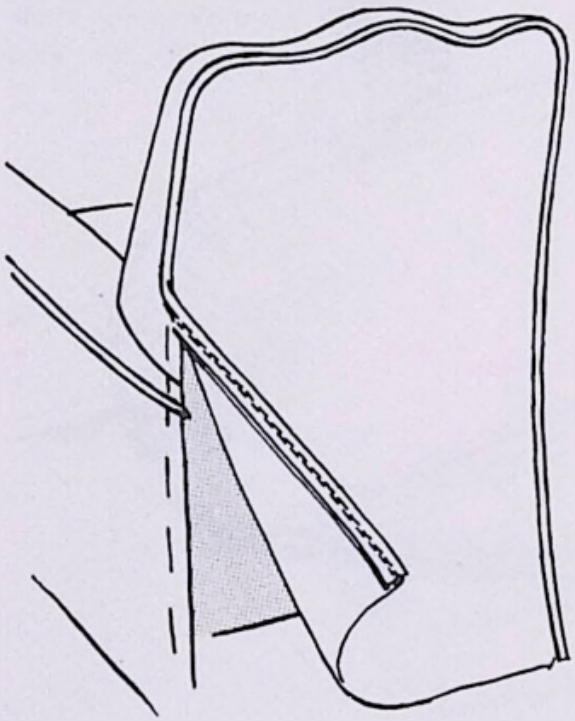
Joining side arm section to inside arm section.

joining all sections with one row of stitching. With so much thickness, one edge is likely to stretch or the seam may be stitched unevenly.

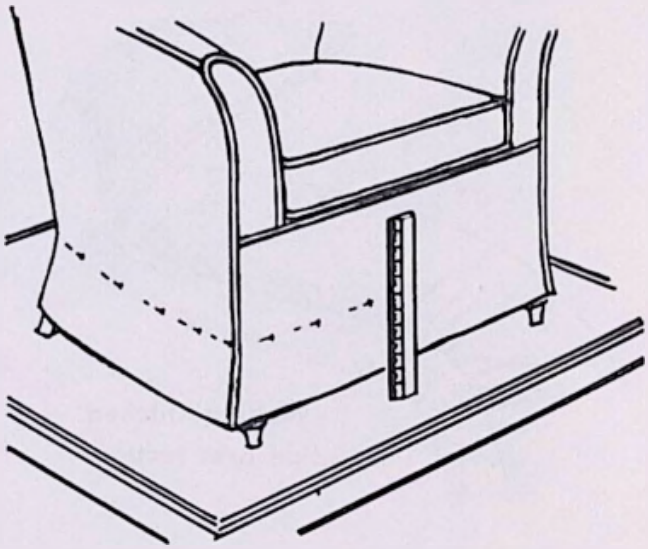
Now join side arm sections, placing line of stitching over seam line, matching all lines and notches. Place pins at regular intervals to hold sections in place. Stitch. At this stage, try assembled sections on chair for inspection.

Apply seam finish to continuous seam line along sides and over top of chair. Join back section to side and front back, matching center line and side notches. Pin securely, placing pins across the seam. Stitch as shown for joining side arm section. Leave one side open from 20" to 24", depending on size of chair for zipper or other closure. If there is very little shap-

Welting pinned to front back section ready for stitching.



Welting joined to back section, then back joined to front back.



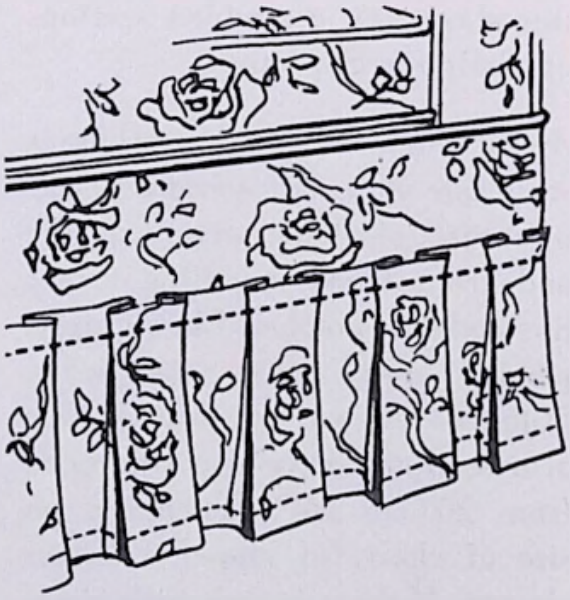
Marking line for skirt joining.

ing or ease necessary across the top of the front back section, you may find it easy to first apply seam finish to edge of back section. Then join back section to sides and front back, matching all notches and pin.

The Skirt or Flounce on the average chair measures 7″ or 8″ in depth and clears the floor by approximately 1″. Measure, from the floor, the depth of the skirt plus 1″. Mark with pins or colored pencil. Strips for skirt are cut on the crosswise grain of fabric. To depth of finished skirt, add 2″ for seam and hem. The number of strips required depends on type of skirt.

Spaced Box Pleating

This type of skirt requires twice the circumference of the chair. Take measurement over marked



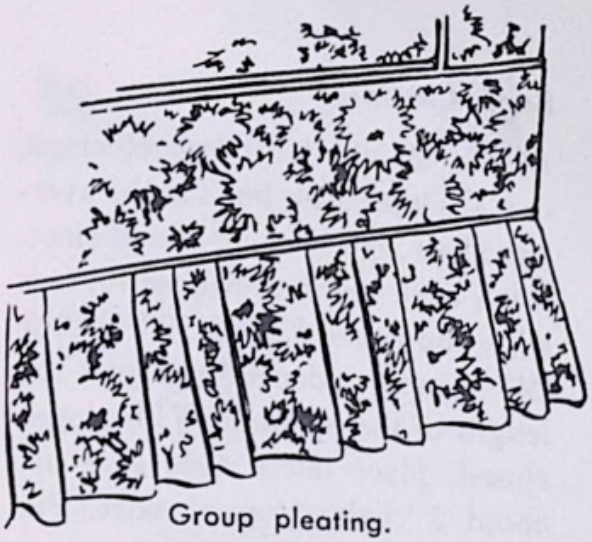
Spaced box pleats.

line for skirt joining. If this measures 3 yards, cut 6 yards plus 6″ or 8″ for ease in joining. For Closed Box Pleats, allow 3 times the length.

Group Pleats

Decide on the number of pleats to a group—3, 5 or 7—and the number of groups. Multiply the number of inches taken up in each pleat by the number of pleats used and add to the measurement around chair.

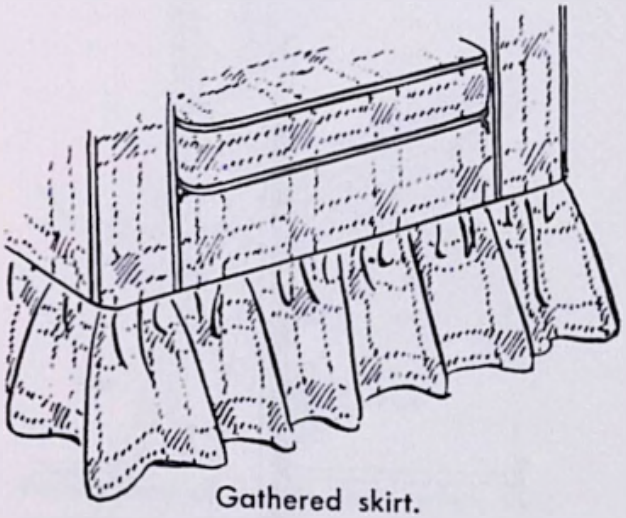
For example: If one pleat takes 3″ and 27 pleats are necessary, you will need 81″ extra length. Always allow 6″ or 8″ extra for hems, seams and ease in joining.



Group pleating.

Gathered Flounce

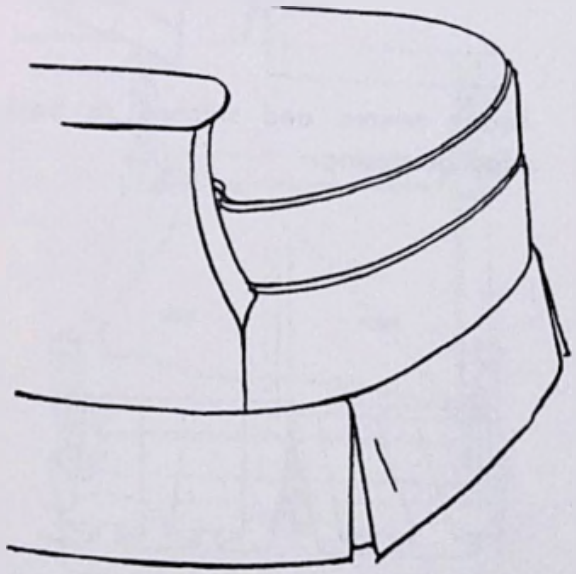
This skirt is generally used in informal rooms, such as Early American types and summer cottages. Allow one and a half to twice the measurement around the chair for fullness.



Gathered skirt.

Inverted Pleat

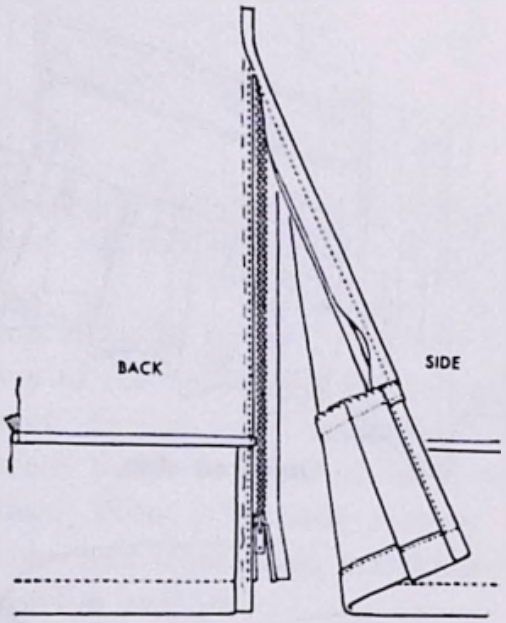
This is a plain skirt with an inverted pleat over each leg of the chair. To the measurement around chair, add 4 times the length in each pleat, usually 8″ or 10″ plus allowance for hems, seams and ease.



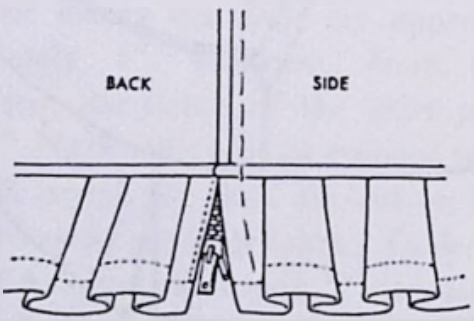
Inverted pleats.

Back Closing

A sofa should have two closings, one at either end, but for the average chair, one closing is sufficient. Turn back seam allowance on free edge and baste. Use an 18″, 20″ or 24″ zipper, depending on the length of the opening. With zipper closed, place latch right side up, about 2″ below top of skirt. Pin and baste turned edge of opening to tape, keeping fold about 1/16″ from metal teeth. Stitch from bottom up, using the Adjustable Cording Zipper Foot. Then place corded edge over zipper, pin in position and baste. Stitch from right side. Trim seam edges even with the tape of zipper and overcast edges together. Press.

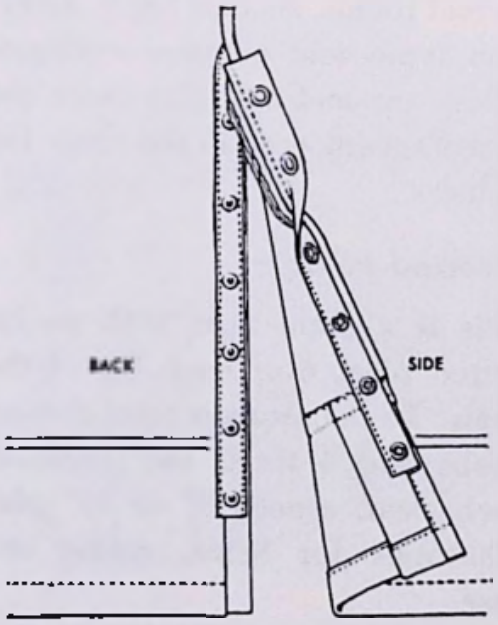


Zipper basted and stitched to back edge of closing.



Side of opening basted to zipper before final stitching.

Snap-on or gripper tape is also used for closings. Place ball side of tape right side up over free edge of opening. Pin and stitch on both sides of tape. Then pin and stitch socket side of tape, wrong side up, to seam edge of welting. Be sure to match the ball and sockets of tape. Turn back tape to side section and stitch on opposite side of tape. Overcast ends of tape.



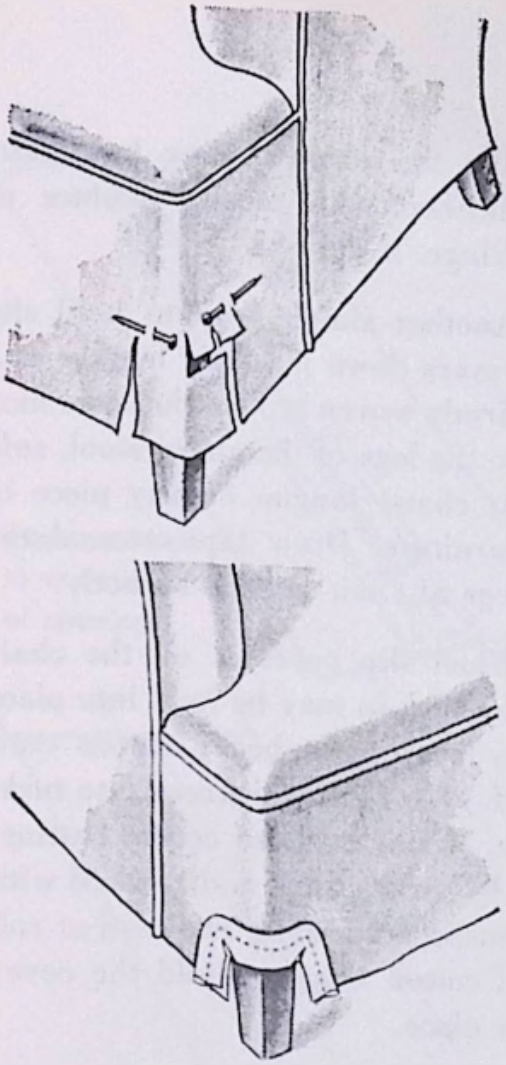
Closing, using snap-on or gripper tape.

Underneath Finish

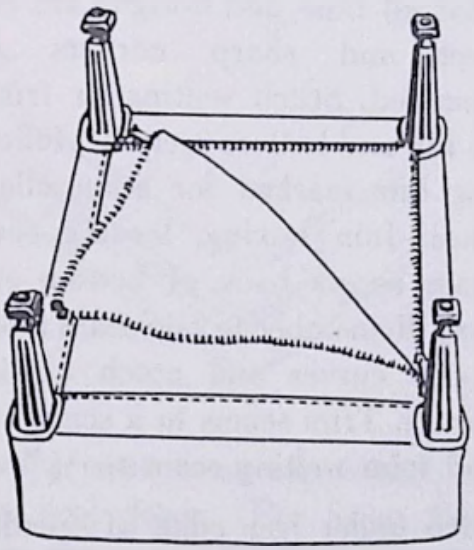
For a smooth tuck-under finish, allow 3″ or 4″ turn on all four sides of the chair. Mark seam line for finish around chair legs even with tuck-under. Shape cover, slashing fabric to ½″ of seam line and trim fabric between slashes as shown in illustration. Finish opening with welting or 1½″ bias strip as shown. Clip seam and turn to underneath side. Turn under edge of cover and tack to the frame of the chair on all four sides.

Another finish is to cut a section of muslin or any closely woven plain fabric to fit inside of tuck-under. Allow 1″ on all edges for seams. Stitch this section to front and to one side of slip cover, taking ½″ seam. Join tuck-under around one leg. Press back seam edges and stitch again on the right side. Insert zippers at side and back. Be sure to use the type that opens at both ends.

To put cover on chair, slip the front closed opening up over leg, smooth cover up over arms, then draw over back of chair. Smooth down all around and close back opening. Turn bottom of chair up and close zippers at side and back. This type of finish holds the cover neatly in place and facilitates its removal.



Finish around leg of chair when skirt or flounce is not used.

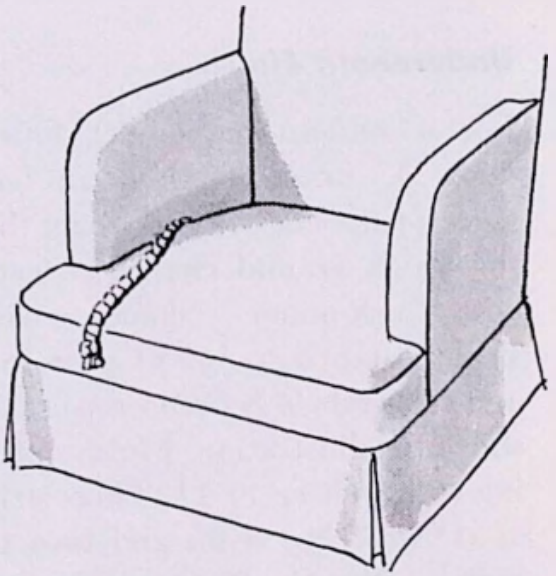


Zipper closings.

Use this same closing for chairs finished with pleated flounce or fringe, if desired.

Another simple way to hold slip covers down is to sew lengths of a firmly woven tape to the seam next to the legs of the chair, stool, sofa or chaise longue or any piece of furniture. Draw tape around the legs of chair and tie securely.

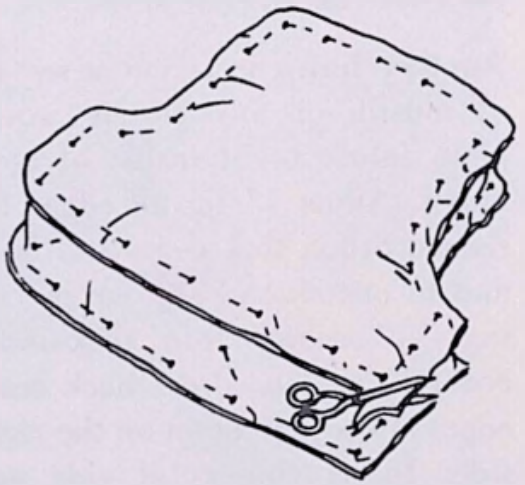
When slip cover is on the chair the tuck-in may be held into place by pressing a heavy cotton cord of ½" or ¾" thickness into tuck-in. A roll made of cotton batting, 1½" or 2" thick and covered with muslin is suitable. The cord or roll of cotton helps to hold the cover in place.



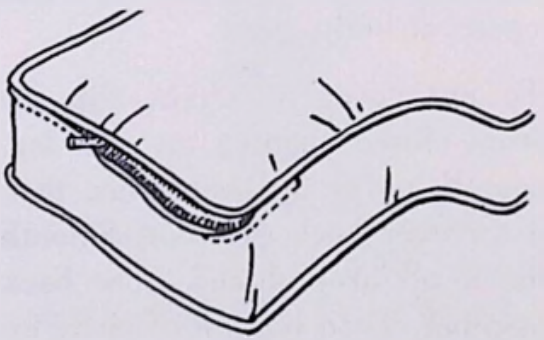
To hold tuck-in in place, press large cord or roll made of cotton into crease.

Covering Cushions

Pin-fit sections, checking to see that all lines and designs are correct and sharp corners are rounded. Stitch welting or fringe to top and bottom sections, following line marked for seam allowance. Join boxing, leaving seam open across back of bottom section. Remember to clip seam along inside curves and notch outside curves. Trim seams to a scant ½" and trim welting seam to ¼".



Pin-fit cover. Mark seam. Shape corners.



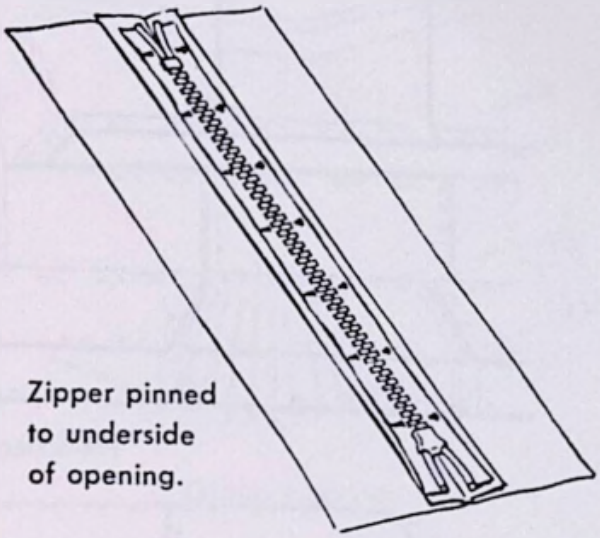
Turn under free edge of opening and baste. Insert zipper, right side up. Pin corded edge to zipper, keeping stitching line clear of metal teeth. Baste. Then pin opposite side to zipper so that folded

edge meets corded edge. Baste. Open zipper and stitch from the right side, using the Adjustable Cording Zipper Foot. Trim seam edges to tape of zipper and overcast edges together.

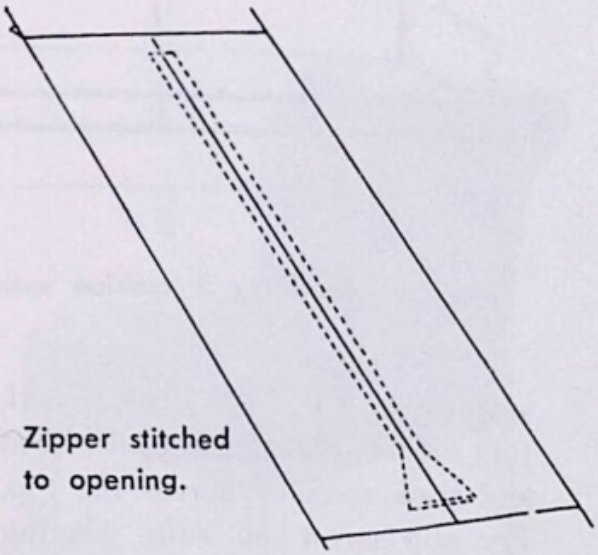
Another way of inserting the zipper is to make a separate back section the same length as zipper plus ½" on each end for seams, and 1½" wider than boxing strip. Cut strip through center. Baste center edges together on wrong side, taking a ¾" seam. Press seam open. Pin zipper, right side up, along seam line on wrong side and baste. Stitch around zipper. Remove bastings. Join ends of section to boxing. Stitch boxing to top and bottom sections of cushion.

Covering a Sofa

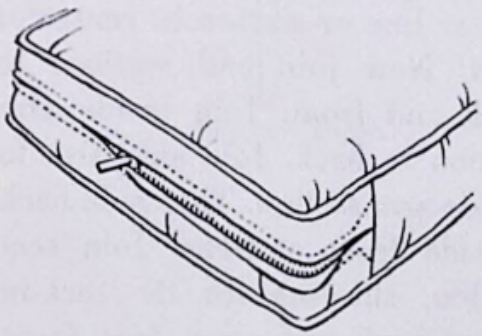
When slip covering a sofa or any other piece of upholstered furniture, follow the same procedure as for a chair. In taking measurements of each section, follow as closely as possible the seam lines of the muslin cover or the lines of the present upholstery. It is always wise to work first with muslin, pin-fitting one-half of the sofa. It is inexpensive, considering that you can work out all details and become familiar with the contour of the sofa to be covered.



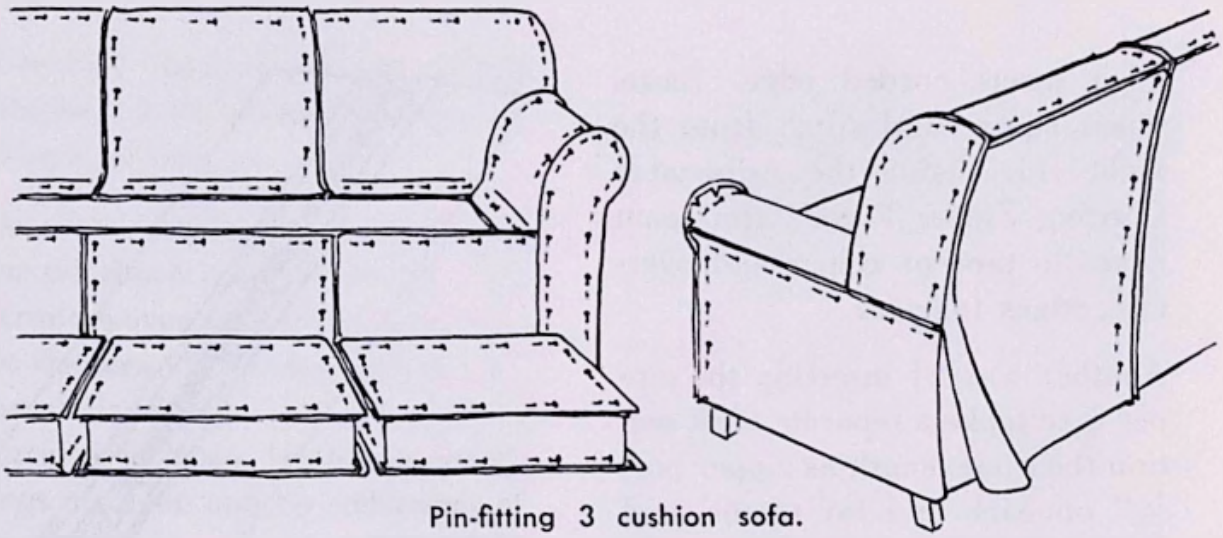
Zipper pinned to underside of opening.



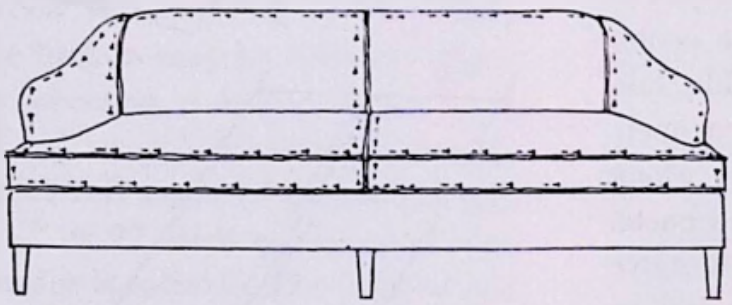
Zipper stitched to opening.



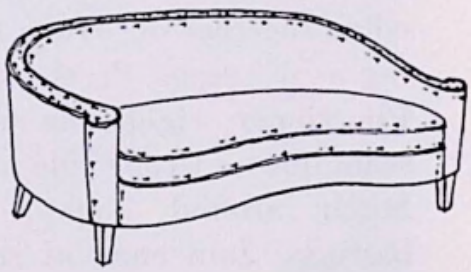
Always work from top center, to sides and down. (For *Seam Finishes*, see page 13). First join the



Pin-fitting 3 cushion sofa.



Pin-fitting 2 cushion sofa.

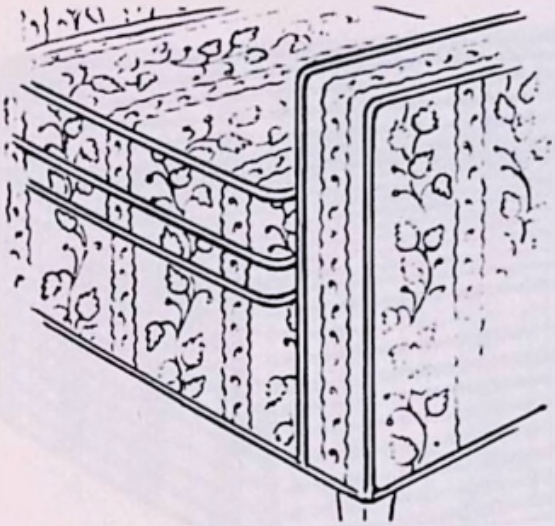


Pin-fitting 1 cushion sofa.

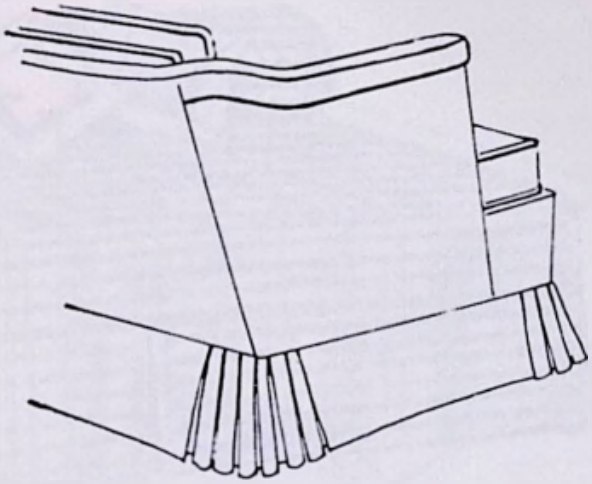
sections of the front back. Next, join back sections. Then join front and back sections across the top. Try slip cover on sofa, placing center line or section to center of sofa. Now join end sections to back and front. Join inside arm section to back. Join side arm to inside arm section. Then side back to side front sections. Join seat section, allowing for the tuck-in across back and arms. Join front apron sections. Join side sections to back, leaving an opening on either side for closing. See page 22 for zipper or snap-on tape closings and page 20 for making *Skirts* or *Flounces*.

If plain box finish is used at the bottom, the edge may be finished with a hem or welting. Allow for hem or seam when taking measurements.

Follow same instructions for covering cushions as for a chair. If the zipper closing is not desirable, leave an opening for inserting the cushion. Turn free edge under the seam allowance and pin to welting or fringe. Slip-stitch together by hand.



Plain box finish with hem or welting at lower edge.

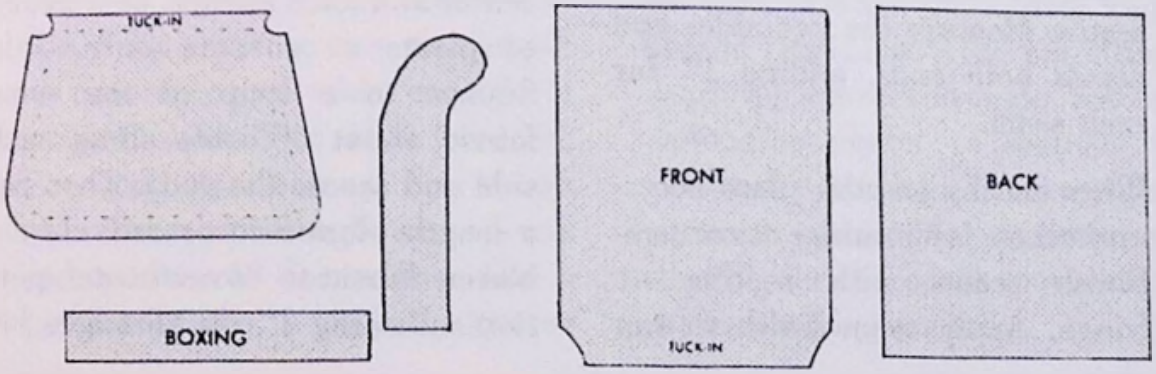


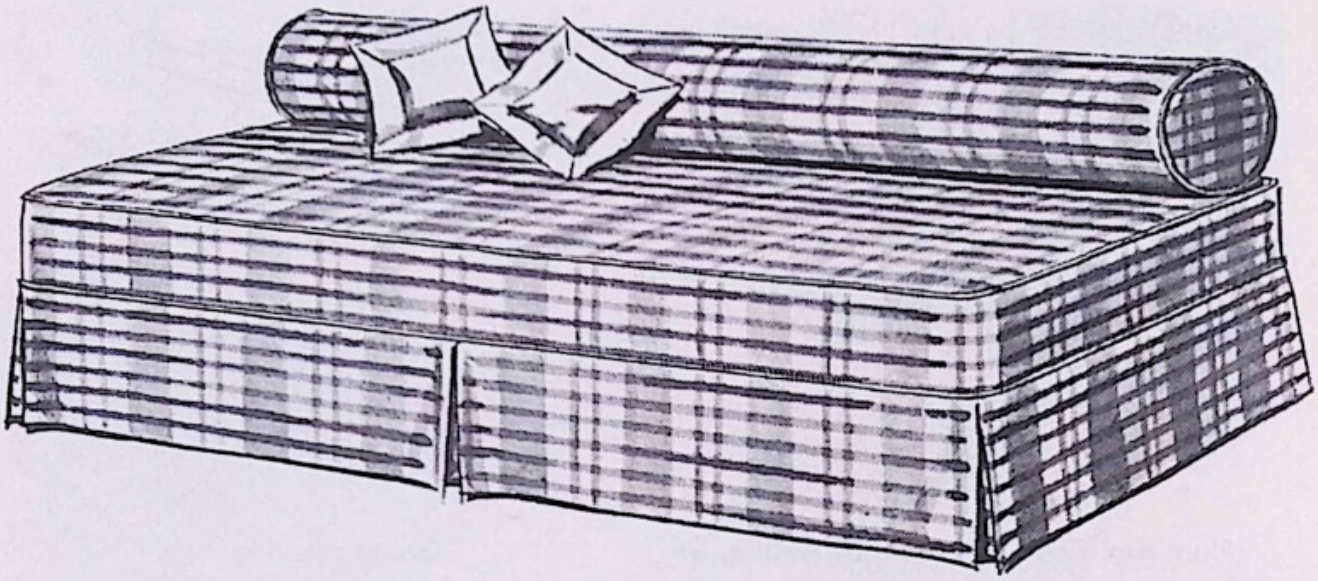
Group pleating.

The Slipper Chair

This type of chair may be tailored or finished with a pleated or gathered skirt depending on the room and type of fabric used. Follow the same instructions for cutting and pin-fitting a chair. Join side back sections to front and back sections. Then join seat section to front back. Next, join boxing to sides and front. A side opening is not required for this type of chair. Slip finished cover first over back, then over seat.

Slipper chair.





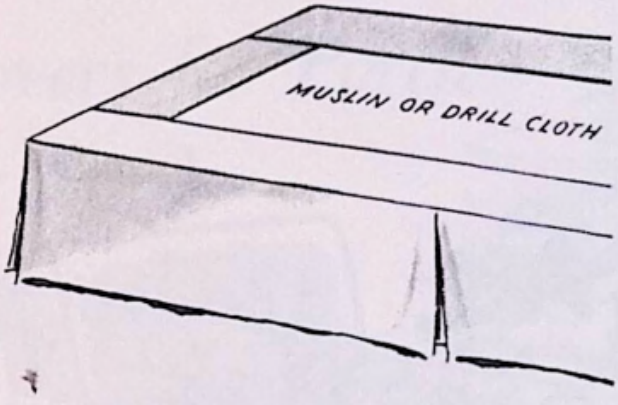
Covering a studio couch.

Studio Couch or Day Bed

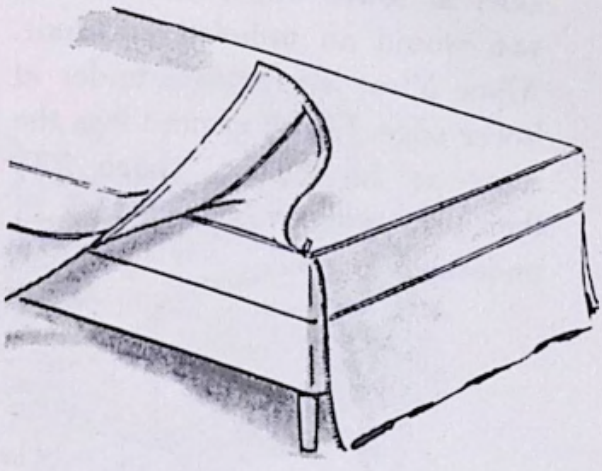
Slip covering your couch or day bed, makes it decorative as well as useful. The permanent type of cover is perhaps the most formal. Cover the mattress the same as you would a cushion, making it reversible. Measure the length and width of the mattress and add to each measurement 2″ for seams. Cut 2 sections. Then measure the depth of mattress, adding 2″ for seams. Measure the two sides and across both ends, adding 1″ for each seam.

When cutting lengths, place necessary seams for joinings at corners. Finish seams with welting or fringe. Apply seam finish to top and bottom sections of mattress cover, then join boxing, leaving an opening across the end and along one-fourth the length of one side. Insert heavy zippers for closings, one across the end and one along the side. Be sure latches meet at the corner.

Finish lower section with a deep flounce, forming inverted pleats at center and each corner, or a group of pleats at corners only. Join flounce to a strip of the same fabric about 6″ wide along each side and across the ends. Then cut a length of muslin or any closely woven fabric to cover center portion, allowing 1″ on all edges for



Skirt joined to strips of same fabric.



Coverall for couch.

seams. Pin to inside edges of strips and stitch.

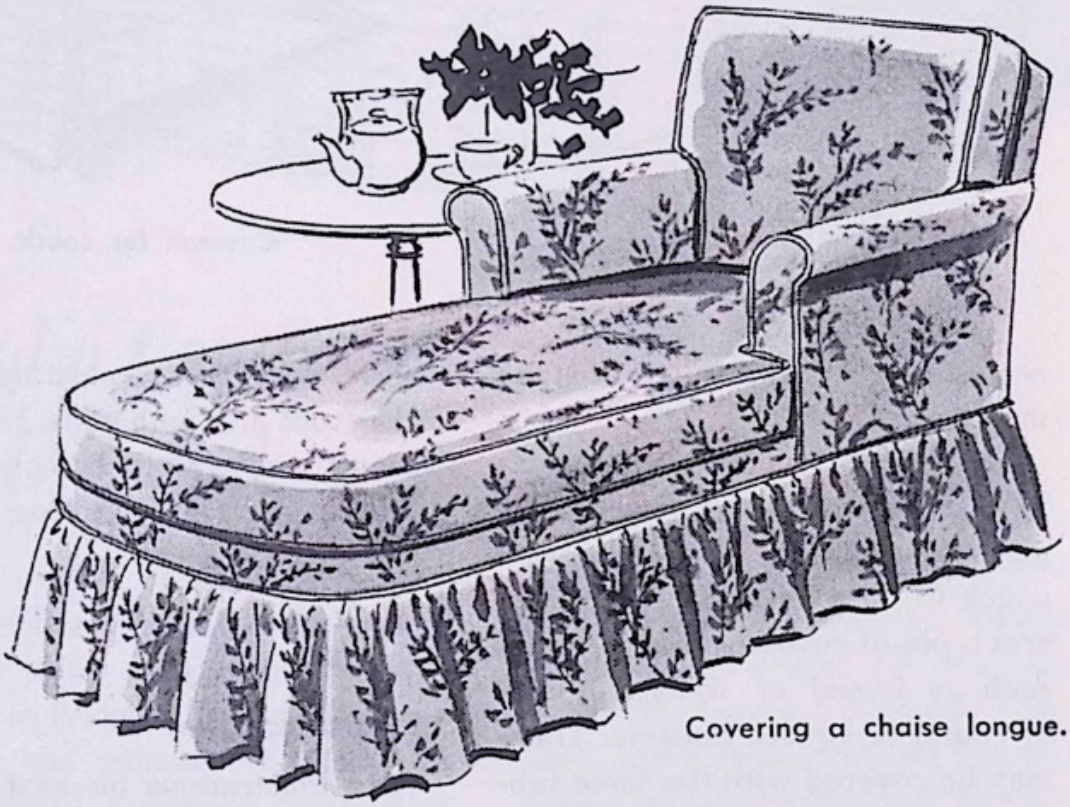
Sew lengths of tape to inside corner seams and tie around legs of couch to hold cover in place. Several types of cushions may be used, such as boxed or wedge pillows or round or square bolsters. These may be covered with the same fabric or a fabric contrasting in texture and color.

For a coverall, cut one piece of fabric the length and width of the mattress, adding 1" for seams. Cut fabric for back section the length of mattress, and wide enough to reach 1" from floor when hemmed. Cut strip for boxing the length of mattress plus length across each end, adding 1" for seams. Add a gathered ruffle, a pleated skirt or skirt with group pleating across the front and both ends. Finish all seams with welting, piping or fringe. Use zipper closing at each end of back section.

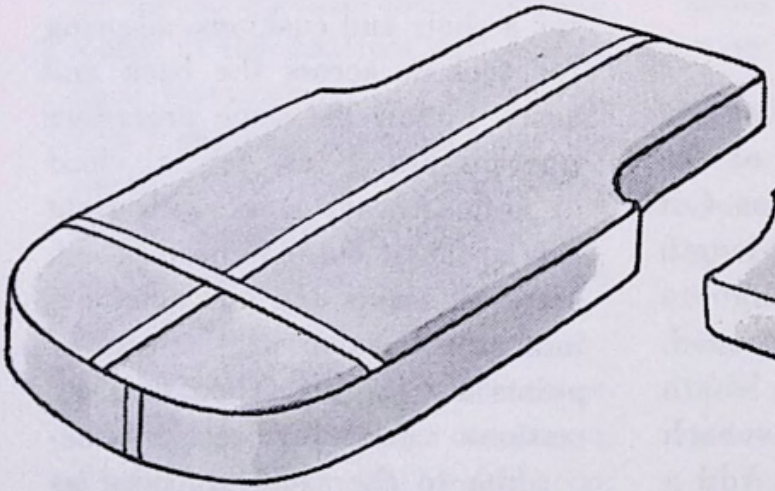
Chaise Longue

(See illustrations on next page.) Take measurements as you would for a chair and cushions, allowing for tuck-in across the back and arms. Follow the same procedure for pin-fitting as for a chair or sofa. Always work with right side of fabric out. After pin-fitting, mark all seams and make notches indicating center of sections or points for joining. Then separate sections. Assemble sections according to the same sequence as when covering a chair.

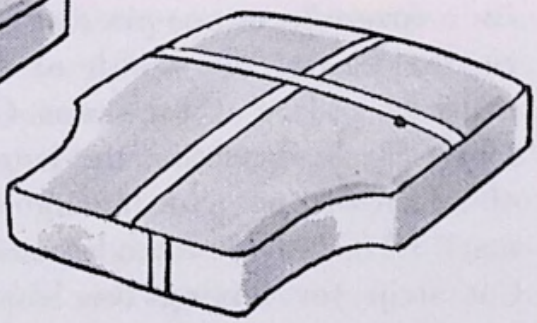
Use either gathered or pleated skirt at lower edge, or finish as you would an upholstered chair. Allow 3″ or 4″ for tuck-under at lower edge. Finish around legs the same as for chair; (page 23) then turn under edge and tack to underside.



Covering a chaise longue.

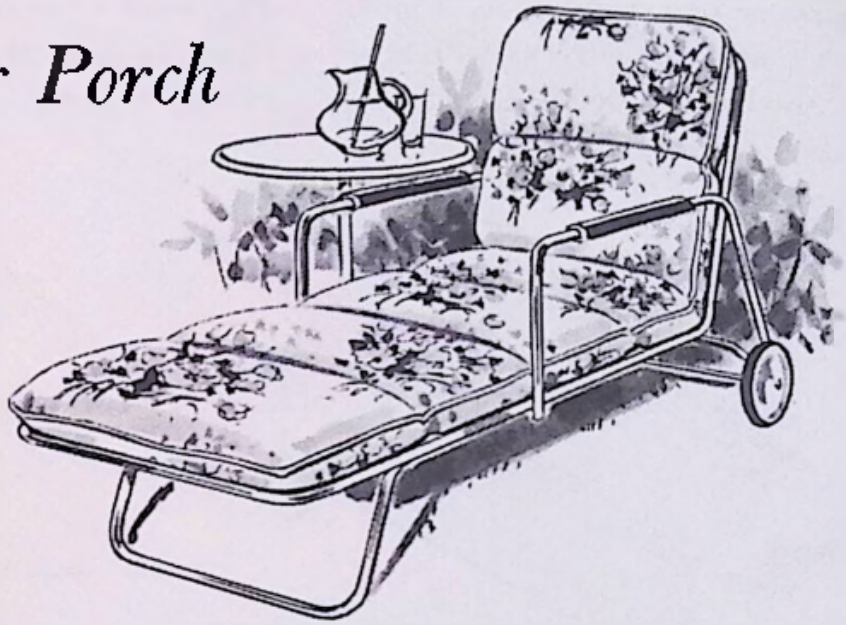


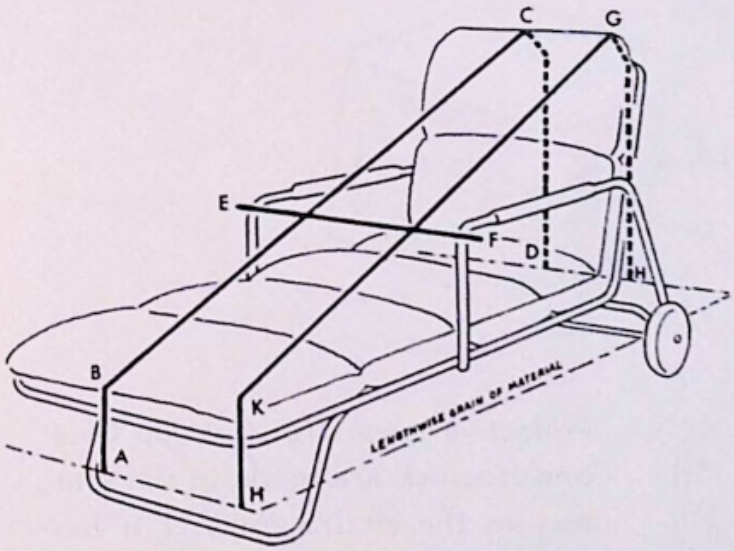
Measuring the cushions.



Take measurements the same as for a chair.

Covers for Porch or Yard Furniture





Measurements
(Allow ½" on all edges for seams)

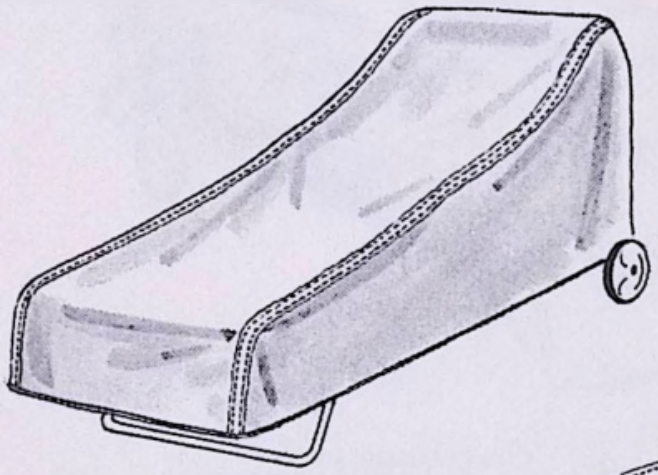
Center section
Length A over B, C and down to D
Width E to F

Side sections
Length K to G
Depth back G to H
Depth front K to H

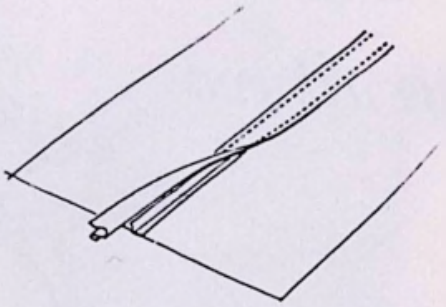
Protective covers may be made of drill cloth, denim, plastic or some type of moisture-proof and dust-proof fabric. Most of these covers are made in three sections.

For Chaise Cover, measure width from arm to arm. For center section, take length measurement from floor up over cushion to the top of the back, over back and down to floor. For side sections, measure from top of back to floor for depth, and from top of chaise to front for length. Allow ½" for

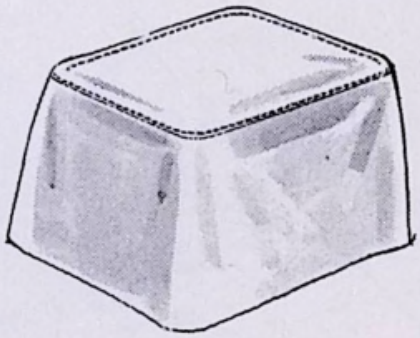
seams on all edges and 1¼" at the bottom for hem. Pin-fit and stitch seams on the right side. Finish with a flat seam covered with tape as shown in detail. Hem the bottom edge. It is a good idea to leave a small opening in hem at the back to run a cord through. Pull ends of cord, drawing cover tight around the frame of the chaise or chair.

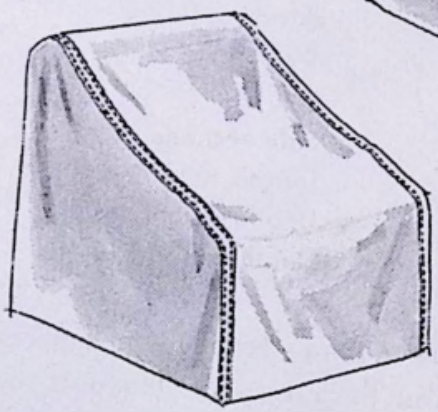


Cover for chaise.

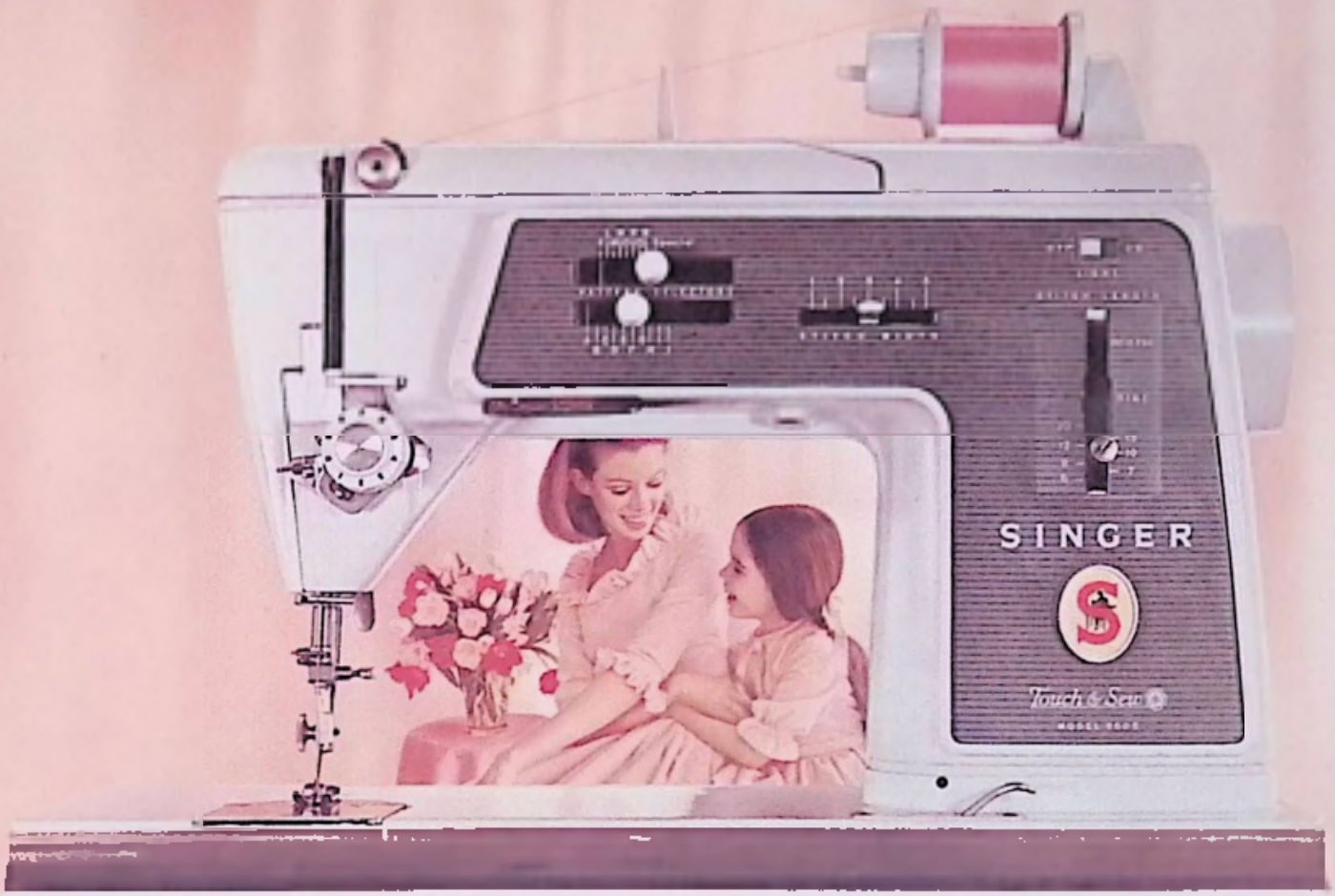


Flat seam covered with tape.





Protective covers for Cushion Chair and Hassock are made in the same way as the chaise cover. For hassock, measure for length and width of the top. Cut one length of fabric for skirt section. Measure from top of cushion to floor for width. Make allowance for seams and hem.



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